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PART XI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

TURKISH WAR.

August 1913.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Turkish War.

Part XI.

[35544] **No. 1.**

Admiralty to Foreign Office. (*Received August 1.*)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, July 31, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a report from Vice-Admiral Cecil Burney, K.C.B., dated the 26th instant, on affairs at Scutari.

I am, &c.

O. MURRAY

Enclosure in No. 1

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Scutari, July 26, 1913.*

IN continuation of my letter of the 16th ultimo, be pleased to lay before their Lordships the following report on the condition of affairs at Scutari:

2. The present condition of the town is satisfactory, but with confidence restored amongst the people, the ordinary evils of a large community have made themselves apparent, necessitating increased vigilance on the part of the Administration. The local police force has been increased, and Albanian police are now employed to assist the patrols at night to stop burglary and other crimes. Several murders have taken place in the district, but one only in the town. These have all been due to vendettas. Every effort is being made to stop the vendettas, and I think that great progress is being made, as the priests have been working to this end.

3. The gendarmerie have been increased to fifty, and I hope to have them soon actually employed in the country in the vicinity of Scutari. At present they have been merely drilled, but when their uniform arrives, and it is expected at any moment now, they will be sent into the mountains to visit the whole country round Scutari. Amongst the fifty that have been enrolled are representatives from several of the tribes of Northern Albania. A very large number of applications was received, and the force could, without difficulty, be increased to 200 at once, but the lack of funds necessitates the numbers being kept at fifty for the present.

4. The financial condition of the town is satisfactory, but a considerable sum of money is necessary for works which are all of an immediate nature.

The lamps have been placed, and are now in working order; but more illumination is still required. The bridge over the Drinassa, which was destroyed by the

Montenegrins during the war, must be rebuilt as soon as possible, as it is on the direct road to Medua, and the floating bridge which is at present in use will not be satisfactory in winter time, when the stream is very strong. A proper road is urgently required from the custom-house to the main portion of the town.

These matters are big undertakings, but it is hoped to commence them all in a short time.

An effort is to be made to improve the conditions of the Berdusa district, which is flooded in winter, and to a great extent, covered with stagnant water in summer. A scheme of canalisation, which was working over twenty years ago, but has since lost its use through neglect of irrigation, will be developed. The preliminary work of levelling a plant of about 13,000 acres will be undertaken by the people of the district who are at present without employment. These men will be paid by Scutari, and this will afford considerable relief to the district.

5. The telegraph line between Scutari and Alessio has been completed, and direct communication is now open through Valona. The line is also being completed between Medua and Alessio, and when this is done a second and probably cheaper route, viâ Antivari, will be available. The line is being improved as rapidly as possible, and is a great boon to the commercial community.

Great difficulty was at first experienced with the line, for, as soon as it was put up the Albanians dug up the posts and stole the wire. I therefore sent for all the chiefs of the districts and pointed out to them the stupidity of such proceedings, and how it was hampering the development of the country. On their return they assembled the people and warned them not to interfere with the line. The result has been quite satisfactory, and no trouble has been experienced since, as they have placed their own guards on the line.

It was decided not to open a post office at present. There is an Austrian and an Italian post office in the town, and until the Government of Albania is settled it was thought to be advisable to postpone the question of stamps and Government postal communication.

6. In order to bring the different religious sects together, and endeavour to make them work for the benefit of the town and country, a club has been started with this object. It is hoped that the co-operation of the priests has been secured, and if this is so, the club will be a great factor in the settlement of the country.

7. The custom-house at Medua has now been taken over by the Albanians from Alessio, and great satisfaction is apparent at the departure of the Montenegrins.

Representatives of the Scutari custom-house are being sent to Medua. The custom-house at Oboti, the summer port of Scutari, has been reopened with representatives from Scutari, as also have been the two look-out stations at the mouth of the river, Pulaj and Beaj. At Oboti an English guard has been placed at the custom-house.

8. It is not yet certain that the Servians have left the Merdita district, and I have been in telegraphic communication with the British Minister at Belgrade on this point. It is essential that they should retire at once in order that the confidence of the people may be restored and fighting prevented. The Servian regulations at the old Albanian towns, which will now apparently be Servian (such as Djakova) have created the impression that the Albanians will be boycotted in the markets at the towns. This is a matter of the greatest importance, as the existence of the people depends on the market for their goods, and according to what is considered will be the eastern frontier of Albania, several of the most important market towns will become Servian. The Servians deny the boycotting, but it is nevertheless true, and I am afraid that the ignorance of the people and the antipathy of the Catholic priests to the Orthodox Servians will undoubtedly be a great source of unrest in the frontier districts for some time to come.

9. During the past month I have interviewed practically all the principal chiefs of the northern half of Albania, and advised them as regards their temporary Government, counselling them to work together, Christian with Mussulman, for the benefit of the country, and also to endeavour to put a stop to vendettas. I am convinced that these interviews have had a very beneficial effect on the country, and it is the best that can be done without actually giving them a visible form of Government. I have also visited some of the districts and tribes close to Scutari, and spoken with the people. They readily accept advice, and I believe are working well at present.

There is no doubt that the early settlement of the Government of Albania is a very immediate necessity, and the idea of a Prince coming to govern them is the most cherished hope of the people.

Intriguing is still going on, and it seems part of the nature of a portion of the people. In some districts it is stated that Austrian agents are actively endeavouring to persuade the people to ask for Austrian Government. In the eastern districts the Servians seem to be doing the same. The bulk of the people, however, have the idea of independence so thoroughly implanted that they are unlikely to entertain any such ideas.

10. The early settlement of the question of whether the revenues of this country are to go to the Ottoman Debt is very desirable. It is probably a difficult financial question, but it would appear to be undesirable that a new and impoverished country should be required to pay the greater portion of its revenues to Turkey. The surtax of 37½ per cent. on alcohol, 15 per cent. on eau-de-vie, and 1 metalic per kilo on salt, which were imposed at the beginning of the war last October have been suspended by the International Commission. The head office of the Public Debt at Constantinople has not agreed to this step. As a precautionary measure the merchants have been required to lodge guarantees to pay the surtax on the alcohol and eau-de-vie if called on to do so.

11. The Austrian, Italian, and French military detachments are all expected to arrive within the next few days. The French are sending 200, the same number as seamen landed, but the Austrians and Italians have very considerably augmented their forces. Instead of 200 each the Italians are sending 485 men and 23 officers, whilst the Austrians are sending 355 men and 31 officers. These increases in numbers have upset the arrangements for accommodation. At the central barracks a greater portion will have to be put in order, and I have asked the Austrian Admiral to request his Government to provide another 400*l.* for this work. The Italians have a barracks of their own, which they have put in order at a cost of 600*l.* This accommodation will have to be augmented at a further expense.

I have, &c.
CECIL BLUNT.

[35640] No. 2

M. Vesnitch to Sir A. Nicolson.—(Received August 1.)

Légation Royale de Monténégro, Londres, le 1er août, 1913.

Excellence,

EN faisant suite à l'entretien que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir hier avec votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, les mémoires (A) et (B) concernant les demandes territoriales de mon Gouvernement.

En me réservant de préciser le point de vue auquel le Gouvernement Royal se place pour obtenir une décision de la conférence des Ambassadeurs en harmonie avec les grandes lignes de leurs résolutions antérieures, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre connaissance de ces documents et de les porter, en même temps, à la connaissance de son Excellence Sir Edward Grey.

Je saisis, &c.
L. VOINOVITCH.

Enclosure in No. 2.

(A.)

Question territoriale.

LES frontières qu'on a données au Monténégro au sud ne lui permettent pas de vivre d'une vie économique indépendante.

Scutari passe à l'arrière-plan. C'est le territoire environnant, c'est surtout le cours de la Boïana qui représente pour le Monténégro une condition *sine qua non* pour son développement économique. Sans cette plaine, le peuple monténégrin reprendra le chemin de l'émigration, le paupérisme prendra des proportions effrayantes et la paix sera de nouveau menacée et à très brève échéance.

Si la conférence des Ambassadeurs donnait au Monténégro les leviers de la Boïana et du Drin, toute la population pauvre du Monténégro pourrait s'y établir et y trouver les moyens d'existence.

Cette plaine est tombée entre les mains des Monténégrins au début de la guerre avec la Turquie. Elle est peu peuplée. On peut évaluer le nombre de ses habitants à peine à 6,000. Ils sont pour deux tiers catholiques et orthodoxes et pour un tiers musulmans.

Elle est très marécageuse. Par la régularisation des cours d'eau qui l'environnent, cette plaine serait assainie, ces marécages desséchés, et, comme elle est formée d'un véritable humus, elle deviendrait le grenier du Monténégro, où une grande partie des familles monténégrines pourront s'établir, la plupart de ces terrains appartenant au domaine de l'État turc.

Sans la rive droite de la Boïana, le Monténégro ne pourra jamais avoir une sortie naturelle pour ses communications avec le monde extérieur; il aura toujours des difficultés avec le nouvel État albanais pour la liberté du service sur la Boïana; il ne pourra profiter, comme il en a le droit, du dessèchement du lac de Scutari et du chemin de fer qui doit forcément longer la vallée de ce fleuve.

Le minimum que le Monténégro est obligé de demander de ce côté-là, si on est bien décidé de lui refuser la rive droite du Drin, c'est une frontière qui passerait par la Boïana, en lui laissant toute la rive droite de ce fleuve, et irait ensuite directement sur le Virovi Kustrati.

Une seconde nécessité absolue pour le Monténégro, c'est une correction de la frontière sud-est.

Pour éviter tout conflit entre l'Albanie et le Monténégro, la frontière nord-est de l'Albanie doit être à tout prix le thalweg de la rivière Zem (ou Serbe, Tsievna), qui est une frontière naturelle.

La tribu de Kémenti doit appartenir au Monténégro, car, dans le cas contraire, toute la région monténégrine de Plav et de Gousinié serait retranchée du royaume, les routes qui mènent de Plav et Gousinié vers le Monténégro passant par la tribu de Klementi.

Les nouveaux sujets devraient donc se servir d'un territoire étranger pour se tenir en relation avec l'État auquel ils appartiennent! Situation absurde, qui rappelle un cas analogue d'avant la guerre. Velika, au nord-est du Monténégro, pour communiquer avec le reste du pays, devait se servir d'un territoire turc (Rantiza), ce qui eut pour cause les incidents journaliers, de ce côté de la frontière, qui aboutirent à la guerre.

Si on laisse donc les Klémenti à l'Albanie, on sépare Plav et Gousinié du Monténégro, en renouvelant, et même en aggravant, la faute du Congrès de Berlin.

La tribu de Kamenti s'étend d'un côté jusqu'aux Koutchki Komovi, de l'autre, jusqu'à la ville monténégrine d'Andrievitza. Les terres des Monténégrins et des Klementi sont tellement enchevêtrées, qu'une séparation politique entraînera fatalement des conflits et des désordres sans nombre entre le Monténégro et l'Albanie.

Des six projets de frontière que le Gouvernement monténégrin propose, projets qui devraient être examinés sur une carte géographique, il faut retenir deux points principaux: (1), le minimum des revendications monténégrines du côté sud-est, c'est, la rive droite de la Boïana, (2) au sud-est, le thalweg de la rivière Zem, en laissant tout Gusinje et Klémenti au Monténégro.

Au cas où les Puissances maintiendraient l'enclave prévue dans la vallée du Zem au profit de l'Albanie—c'est par cette vallée que passe le tronçon qui relie la route de Podgoritza à Ipek, par Plav et Gousinié—elles se compromettraient gravement, peut-être au préjudice des plus sérieux intérêts internationaux, l'éventuelle construction d'une ligne ferrée à voie normale des frontières de la Serbie à l'Adriatique ne comportant sur aucun point l'emploi du territoire albanais. Il apparaît en effet, que le tracé le plus direct à travers la région serait celui qui, partant de Mitrovitza, remonterait la vallée du Sitnitza, franchirait le col de Kossovska Kamenitza, descendrait sur Ant vari par Ipek, traverserait la vallée du Zem et, par Podgoritza, atteindrait Scutari. Toute autre solution, d'ailleurs moins directe, entraînerait des difficultés excessives.

En résumé, la rive droite de la Boïana et la suppression de l'enclave de la vallée du Zem sont les desiderata minimes du Monténégro.

NOTA.—Dans les environs de Scutari il y a des contrées serbo-orthodoxes: Daredjat, Vraka (ou Vraka) et Kamenitza. Ces contrées, habitées par des Monténégrins, ne pourront jamais vivre sous un régime albanais.

(B.)

Travaux du Lac de Scutari.

AUX termes du Traité de Berlin, le Monténégro a le droit de navigation sur la Boïana, ainsi que celui de la régularisation de ce fleuve de la part de la Turquie.

Par suite de la non-exécution de ces travaux, le niveau du lac a augmenté depuis 1878 de 70 centim., en causant des inondations qui ont coûté au Monténégro les pertes considérables: de là, le manque de terres arables au Monténégro ce qui occasionne la famine et la dangereuse émigration en Amérique.

En 1911 le Gouvernement ottoman, à la suite de l'intervention amicale du Monténégro dans les insurrections des Malissores et des orthodoxes et musulmans dans le Sandjak et dans la Vieille-Serbie (1910-11), avait formellement promis au Gouvernement monténégrin de prendre à sa charge les travaux d'abaissement du niveau du lac de Scutari (2½ millm., au moins) et de commencer ces travaux immédiatement.

C'est ce que la Turquie avait fait, en accordant à une compagnie française (sous la garantie de la Russie et de la France et l'appui de l'Angleterre) le droit d'élever pour une année et demie, après quoi le contrat définitif aurait dû être conclu.

Du côté du fleuve Kiri les travaux avaient déjà été commencés. Le Monténégro aurait ainsi profité sans dépenses de l'abaissement du niveau du lac pour une valeur de 8 millions.

Ces travaux se trouvent naturellement liés à la régularisation du Kiri, du Drin et de la Boïana.

La guerre, mais surtout la formation d'une Albanie autonome, les ont, malheureusement, fait échouer.

L'État albanais, héritier de la Turquie, doit acquitter au Monténégro la dette que la Turquie avait contractée vis-à-vis de nous. Et si ce n'est pas l'Albanie, ce sont les Grandes Puissances qui devraient assumer l'exécution de ces travaux puisqu'elles en ont privé le Monténégro au profit de l'Albanie.

Veut-on trouver une combinaison qui permette au Monténégro de contribuer au règlement définitif de cette question, cette combinaison est tout indiquée: c'est de lui attribuer la rive droite de la Boïana.

[35810] No. 3.

Note communicated by Count Mensdorff, August 1, 1913.

LES contingents serbes qui se trouvaient à Pouka, Mirdita et Tchafa Malit ont été retirés de ces localités et ont occupé une ligne plus en arrière, laquelle pourtant se trouve encore toujours sur le territoire albanais. Cette ligne comprend le pont de Vézir sur le Drin, la montagne Bastrik et le passage de montagnes Tchafa Morines.

Ce cordon militaire tiré entre la ville de Djakova et les tribus albanaises de Guchi, Krussnitchi, Bitutchi et Hassi empêche les habitants de ce territoire de venir au marché de Djakova. En outre, les Serbes ont arrêté, le 7 juillet, pour le marché, à Djakova, 500 Albanais, qui étaient venus pour le marché, et les ont expulsés.

Les Serbes répandent dans les environs de Djakova attribués à l'Albanie la nouvelle que les habitants de l'Albanie autonome ne seront pas admis à visiter le marché de Djakova: ils ne pourront obtenir le libre accès à ce marché qu'en signant une déclaration de vouloir faire partie de l'État serbe.

Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie, Londres,
le 1er août, 1913.

[35511] No. 4.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 329.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, July 31, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 326 of 28th July.

Greek central force has reached Kresna, south of Djuma. On right Greeks are retreating down Mesta Valley, abandoning baggage on the way. On left Bulgarians, who have been considerably reinforced, claim to have driven them south of Pechovo.

H[illegible] victory over Greeks, which might reduce Greek territorial claims at Bucharest.

Situation on Serbo-Bulgarian frontier is unchanged, and, in view of reported armistice, quiet may be expected.

(Sent to Athens viâ Belgrade, Constantinople, and Bucharest.)

[35512] No. 5.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 330.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, July 31, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 326 of 28th July.

Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that Turks have now left Bulgarian territory proper and also Mustapha Pasha.

(Sent to Constantinople, Belgrade, and Bucharest.)

[35516] No. 6.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 1, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 148 of 30th July.

I presume that authorisation contained in the final paragraph of your telegram No. 37 of 23rd July would allow of my joining, when my colleagues have similar instructions, in a joint or identic declaration to the Roumanian Government for communication to the conference to the following effect: "Whatever may be decided by the conference in regard to the fate of Cavalla, the Great Powers reserve full liberty to revise the decision." This step, which would make it easier for Bulgaria to yield at the conference on the question of Cavalla, has been suggested by M. Take Jonesco, who, though hopeful as to the prospects of agreement between Servia and Bulgaria, feels that the question of Cavalla may wreck the conference. The Greek Prime Minister will not hear of abandoning this port at the conference, though he openly professes that after the conference the Greek Government would, under pressure of the Great Powers, give [illegible] Bulgaria.

[illegible] form proposed would be [illegible] effective as regards [illegible] Cavalla, than the general statement indicated in your [illegible] recommended by the Austrian, [illegible] and Russian Ministers [illegible] their respective Governments; the German Minister is reporting the suggestion to his Government, though not, I believe, recommending it, as he does not know his Government's [illegible] regarding Cavalla. The French Minister was not present when [illegible] last night [illegible] Russian Minister will try to bring him into line this morning.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[35641] No. 7.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 1, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 1st August.

I find that all my colleagues are now at one as to the desirability of a communication to the Roumanian Prime Minister in the sense indicated, which it is felt may make it easier for the Greek plenipotentiaries as well as for the Bulgarians. Whichever side yields at the conference could feel that the decision of the conference was not the last word as regards Cavalla.

I find that my colleagues think that the communication should be made individually by each representative. The Roumanian Prime Minister would welcome it, and would only use it at the conference in the event of a deadlock about Cavalla.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[35642] No. 8.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 1, 1913.*

I UNDERSTAND that Servia demands as frontier watershed of upper Bregalnitsa and Struma, but M. Take Jonesco tells me that he hopes to induce Servian plenipotentiaries to content themselves with considerably less. M. Take Jonesco proposes a frontier starting from eventual Greek frontier at a point south-south-east of Strumitsa, running north-west nearly to Ishtib, and thence generally in a north-easterly direction to the Bulgarian frontier. This would give Strumitsa to Bulgaria and Ishtib and Kochana to Servia.

I gather from my Austrian colleague that he sees no objection to southern portion of Take Jonesco's line, but that Austria may insist on Kochana, but not on Ishtib, going to Bulgaria.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[35496] No. 9.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 1, 1913.*

CONTINUOUS attacks by Bulgarians during three days on both flanks finally repulsed with heavy losses 30th July.

[35646] No. 10.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 378.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 1, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 373 of 29th July.

[illegible] that Osman Nizami's mission is abandoned.

[35645] No. 11.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 1, 1913.*

BALKAN situation.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that indications had reached him that in the end Turkey would withdraw peacefully from Adrianople in return for perhaps heavy compensation elsewhere, rectification of frontier and financial assistance and, perhaps, acceptance by the Powers of moderate scheme of reforms in Armenia.

Minister for Foreign Affairs was very hopeful this morning as to the issue of the Bucharest Conference. He said that he knew that Roumania was exerting all her influence to induce Servia and Greece to accept frontier which the Powers could approve. He told me what Austria desired to avoid was to see Bulgaria compelled to accept frontier which ignored ethnographical considerations, as that would give rise to a permanent state of unrest in the Balkans, and form the germ of war of revenge on the part of Bulgaria. He was of opinion that demands of Servia and Greece, as far as he knew them, were excessive, and should meet with opposition on the part of the Powers.

[35636] No. 12

Mr. Howard to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Stockholm, August 1, 1913*

YOUR telegrams Nos. 4 and 5 of 30th July. Swedish gendarmerie for Albania.
I have informed my colleagues as instructed.

[35648] No. 13.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August 1, 1913.*

THE Commercial Companies of Salonica (Limited), a British firm, claims nearly 73,000*l.* from the Bulgarian Government for destruction of tobacco at Serres. Other claims are pending.

[35652] No. 14.

Sir F. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Posilippo, August 1, 1913*

YOUR circular telegram of 28th July: Bulgarian atrocities
Italian Government are opposed to [illegible]

[35736] No. 15.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 297.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 1, 1913.*

BELGIAN Chargé d'Affaires reports that Turkish Government have applied to Belgian Government for Justice, Agriculture, and Public Works to help Inspector-General in second secteur (Smyrna), and perhaps for other officials.

Before authorising these officials to sign their contracts Belgian Government ask whether we have any objection

(Not to Constantinople.)
[illegible]

(To Constantinople only.)
What are your views?

[36352] No. 16.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 290.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 1, 1913.*

IT is quite impossible now to get an agreement that Ægean islands in occupation of Italy should be given to Greece, and Italy will not undertake to evacuate them till Turkish regular troops are withdrawn from Cyrenaica.

I have therefore suggested at the *réunion* that Koritza and Stylos may be given to Albania if Greece retains possession of all islands in her occupation except Tenedos, Imbros, and Thasos, and if Italy undertakes to evacuate the islands in her occupation and restore them to Turkey as soon as the Turkish troops and guns are withdrawn from Cyrenaica, and it is admitted that the Powers shall decide the final destination

* Also to Earl Granville (No. 291), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 238), Sir R. Rodd (No. 228), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 565), and Mr. Marling (No. 369).

of these islands. This agreement would at any rate secure that we should have a right to see that Italy does not retain the islands. At present we have no such treaty right, as we are not parties to the Treaty of Lausanne. There is also some advantage in retaining the right to decide whether Turkey should eventually retain the islands: this may be used in negotiations to secure withdrawal of Turks from Adrianople.

Greece will now obtain so much more on mainland than was anticipated when we first made conditions about the islands in connection with Koritza and Stylos, that I think we may fairly ease the conditions to this extent.

I have told Austrian Ambassador that if we concede this much about these islands Austrian Government must not be so exacting in conditions attached to International Commission as in Austrian Memorandum communicated to French and Russian Ambassadors on 3rd July.

You should inform Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 567.)

[36352] No. 17.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 1, 1913.*

I AM not sure that French and Russian Governments will agree to depart from original position of securing all islands except Tenedos, Imbros, and Thasos for Greece. But, in view of what Italian Ambassador has said of impossibility of Italy now undertaking to give islands in her occupation to anyone but Turkey, and in hope of securing agreement about southern frontier of Albania, I have suggested at *réunion* to-day an agreement on lines that are being telegraphed to Minister for Foreign Affairs by Italian Ambassador.

I trust, however, that Italian Government will make undertaking not to retain any Ægean islands most explicit, and that Austrian Government will not be exacting as to conditions to be attached to acceptance of international commission to delimit Southern Albanian frontier if Koritza and Stylos are conceded to Albania.

[35516] No. 18.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Barclay.

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 1, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 151 of 1st August: Revision by Powers of decisions of Conference.

You may join in proposed declaration if all your colleagues are similarly instructed. It should be done on the understanding that this declaration does not precude the Powers from revising other points if they think it necessary.

[36352] No. 19.

*Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville.**

(No. 292.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 1, 1913.*

THE Ambassadors here are without instructions as to what Power at place of Sweden should be asked to supply officers for the Albanian gendarmerie. They expressed no objection to Belgium, Denmark, Holland, or Switzerland, and no strong preference; there was a slight impression that Holland with her colonial experience might have the best personnel, and I would therefore suggest that the Dutch Government should be applied to. If they refuse, Denmark might be asked, and, failing that, Switzerland.

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* Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 298), Sir R. Rodd (No. 229), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 566), and Sir F. Cartwright (No. 239).

[36352] No. 20

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.**

(No. 158.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 1, 1913.*

AT the meeting of Ambassadors to-day we discussed the question of what Power should be applied to for officers for the Albanian gendarmerie in place of Sweden, who was unwilling to supply them. No strong preference was expressed, nor was any objection taken as regards any of the four other Powers that had been suggested: Holland, Belgium, Denmark, and Switzerland. As there seemed to be some impression that Holland, having the most Colonial experience, might the most easily have suitable officers available, I said that I would send a telegram to the Powers proposing that application should be made to the Dutch Government, and failing them to the Danish Government, and then to the Swiss Government.

Count Mensdorff then made the following communication :—

"Le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal, tout en adhérant à la proposition de ces Gouvernements concernant la garantie par les Puissances [illegible] des Puissances par l'ordre et consécutivement à la question de régularisation du tracé de la frontière sud-ouest, se réserve d'exposer en temps utile ses propositions sur les détails de ces questions.

"La Cour impériale et royale [illegible] l'arrangement relatif à cette assistance financière sera discuté entre les Puissances et le Gouvernement monténégrin. D'après lui les représentants des Puissances à Cettigné pourraient être chargés de ces négociations."

The following record was made of this communication :—

"Le Comte Mensdorff lit que son Gouvernement désirerait savoir où l'arrangement relatif à l'assistance financière donnée au Monténégro sera discuté entre les Puissances et le Gouvernement monténégrin.

"D'après le Comte Berchtold, les représentants des Puissances à Cettigne pourraient être chargés de ces négociations.

"La réunion ne fait aucune objection à cette façon de procéder."

I then brought forward the question of the southern frontier of Albania. I said that, if it was to be settled before the end of next week, the Powers must have some proposal before them. I therefore put forward some suggestions, of which the following record was made :—

"Sir E. Grey exprime l'avis qu'une entente pourrait s'établir sur les points suivants :—

"1. Une commission internationale procédera à la délimitation de la frontière sud et sud-est de l'Albanie, avec instruction de laisser à l'Albanie Koritza, Stylos, et l'île de Sasseno.

"2. Le territoire de Corfou sera neutralisé.

"3. Les îles restent, sous certaines conditions de neutralité, en possession des Italiens, en majorité par une population grecque et occupées actuellement par les forces [illegible] italiques, à l'exception de Tenédos, Imbros et Thasos.

"4. L'Italie déclarera qu'aussitôt que, conformément à l'article 2 du Traité de Lausanne, les troupes et l'artillerie ottomanes auront abandonné la Cyrénaïque, elle évacuera les îles qu'elle occupe et les restituera à la Turquie.

"5. Au moment du règlement final, les Puissances décideront du sort de ces îles.

"Le Prince Lichnowsky suggère, à titre personnel, de subordonner le règlement de la question des îles restituées à la Turquie à l'obtention de certains avantages tels, par exemple, que l'évacuation d'Andrinople.

"Sir E. Grey reconnaît qu'un règlement conforme aux cinq points susénoncés modifierait les vues précédemment exprimées par quelques Gouvernements, mais il aime l'espoir d'arriver à un accord avant l'ajournement de la réunion à la fin de la semaine prochaine. Il pense que certains changements dans la situation, et notamment l'occupation d'Andrinople par les Turcs, peuvent autoriser les Puissances à réserver leur décision relativement à la destination future des îles occupées par l'Italie après leur restitution à la Turquie."

* Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 486), Earl Granville (No. 246), Sir R. Rodd (No. 197), and Sir G. Buchanan (No. 262).

I had the remarks at the end of this record added because the French Ambassador, though not objecting to what I put forward, stated that the instructions from his Government were to give way about Koritza and Stylos only if all the Aegean Islands (including those occupied by Italy)—excepting, of course, Tenedos, Imbros, and Thasos—were secured for Greece.

The Russian Ambassador had the same instructions, but, from the comment that he made upon what the German Ambassador had said, he seemed to think that the idea of using the islands occupied by Italy as a lever to get the Turks out of Adrianople was not unattractive.

At the close of the *réunion* the Austrian Ambassador stated that the consent of his Government to the Commission of Control for Albania was dependent upon an agreement about the southern frontier.

When the *reunion* broke up, I pointed out to the Austrian Ambassador that, if the French and Russian Governments, in the interest of agreement, gave way on the lines I had suggested about the islands occupied by Italy, I thought that Count Berchtold ought not to insist on all his conditions, as given to me some time ago in a memorandum about the International Commission. For instance, the condition about admitting a representative of Roumania in connection with the discussion of the question of the Vlachs of Pindus should be dropped. When it was put forward, Roumania was neutral and Greece was a belligerent. But now Roumania had become a partner of Greece. She was a belligerent on exactly the same footing as Greece, and, if a representative of Roumania was to be admitted, a Greek representative would have an equally good claim. I pointed out also that it would be impossible to secure the previous evacuation by Greece of Koritza and the coast to the north of Thalia. Greece would never come out of these places without knowing what the Powers were going to decide about Cavalla, and it would be unreasonable to make this demand of Greece at the very moment when the Powers were probably going to have the question of Cavalla placed in their hands.

I am, &c.

E. GREY

[35813] No. 21.

Memorandum communicated by Count Mensdorff, August 2, 1913.

POUR assurer que le produit de l'emprunt soit affecté aux dépenses d'utilité publique fixées d'accord avec le Gouvernement monténégrin, il paraît indispensable de créer un instrument étranger avec l'ontrôlage nécessaire qui serait chargé du service de surveillance à ce sujet.

Par le remboursement des anciens emprunts les garanties leur affectées seront libres, ces garanties comprennent les recettes des douanes et le revenu du monopole du sel. Ces deux revenus étaient calculés avant la guerre à 1,500,000 fr. par an; par l'incorporation des nouveaux territoires que le Monténégro aura gagnés par la guerre contre la Turquie ces revenus augmenteront considérablement et il y a lieu de s'attendre à ce qu'ils suffisent pour le service de l'emprunt garanti.

Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie, Londres,
le 2 août, 1913.

[35814] No. 22.

Memorandum communicated by Count Mensdorff, August 2, 1913.

LE Gouvernement austro-hongrois est tout prêt à accepter la proposition faite par M. l'Ambassadeur de France à la réunion du 15 juillet 1913, par rapport aux îles sous-rendues par les traités à Salonique, en matière civile ou commerciale sur les [illegible] ainsi que pour ce qui a trait à propos de contrats antérieurs à l'annexion, il croit toutefois qu'il faudrait [illegible] proposé une rédaction plus étendue, en ajoutant un premier alinéa.

Le Gouvernement austro-hongrois tient à observer qu'il interprète le mot "annexion," employé dans la proposition française, dans le sens de l'incorporation

des territoires cedes par l'Empire ottoman aux États balkaniques alliés en bloc, dans le territoire de chacun de ces quatre États.

Les nouvelles juridictions instituées à Salonique seront appelées à statuer sur les contestations nées de contrats qui, en matière civile ou commerciale, seront intervenus jusqu'à l'époque de l'annexion entre les négociants de Salonique et leurs acheteurs résidant dans les territoires qui auront passé sous la souveraineté des États contractants (Bulgarie, Grèce, Serbie, Monténégro) et à l'égard desquelles les parties intéressées auront, en outre, accepté la Salonique (*forum prorogatum*).

Les décisions rendues, soit par les tribunaux existant actuellement à Salonique, soit par ces nouvelles juridictions dont il est question plus haut, et concernant des contestations nées à propos de contrats de la catégorie susindiquée et antérieures à l'annexion auront, sur le territoire des États contractants, l'autorité de la chose jugée et y seront déclarées exécutoires, si elles réunissent les conditions ci-après :—

1. Qu'elles ne contiennent rien de contraire à l'ordre public ou aux principes du droit public dans le pays où elles ont été provoquées ;

2. Que d'après la loi du pays où elles ont été prononcées, elles soient passées en force de chose jugée ;

3. Que d'après la même loi, l'expédition qui en est produite présente les caractères de l'authenticité ;

4. Que les parties aient été légalement citées, représentées ou déclarées défaillantes.

Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie, Londres,
le 2 août 1913

[35659] No. 23.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 379.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 1, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 351 of 26th July.

In consequence of communication made by Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna, Austrian Ambassador has been authorised to join in identic communication to Porte in sense of resolution adopted by meeting of Ambassadors of 24th July, with addition that, having observance by Turkey of Treaty of London, all financial assistance will be withheld until Balkan imbroglio is settled.

Russian proposal also recommended making same communication at all Balkan capitals.

[35660] No. 24.

Consul-General Smith to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 17.
(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Odessa, August 1, 1913.*

ENTIRE Black Sea squadron sailed to-night with troops. Probable destination Constantinople.

[35739] No. 25.

Consul-General Smith to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Odessa, August 2, 1913.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Sevastopol :—

"Black Sea squadron returned."

(Sent to embassies.)

[35825] No. 26.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 282.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 2, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 556 of 28th July.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has received similar request from Bulgarian Government, but is opposed to idea of International Commission.

[35826] No. 27.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 283.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 2, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 566 of 1st August.

Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees that Netherlands Government should be asked to supply officers for Albania, and failing them Danish Government, and then Swiss Government.

[35827] No. 28.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 284.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 2, 1913.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs, to whom I communicated substance of your telegram No. 567 of 1st August, expressed himself as favourable to your suggestion, and said he would telegraph his views to Russian Ambassador. His Excellency did not quite understand how we could use our right to decide fate of islands in Italian occupation to secure Turkish withdrawal from Adrianople, as he did not see how we could now make over one of those islands to Turkey.

[35822] No. 29.

Sir H. Rax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 2, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 325 of 28th July and Athens telegram No. 141 of 31st July.

I am sending full particulars of Greek outrages by first available safe opportunity.

(Sent to Athens.)

[35807] No. 30.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 2, 1913.*

BUCHAREST telegram No. 151 of 1st August and Sophia telegram No. 331 of 31st July.

I find it difficult to believe that M. Venizelos contemplates surrender of Cavalla under any circumstances short of actual compulsion. Cavalla is not a mere geographical expression, but a town and district exclusively Greek and occupied by Bulgarian occupation. I doubt whether the King would ratify or the people accept its surrender.

German, Russian, and French Ministers here are strongly in favour of its retention by Greece. If we support Bulgarian demand we shall become as unpopular in Italy here.

(Sent to Sophia and Bucharest viâ Belgrade.)

[35821] No. 31

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 2, 1913.*

THE following is, I understand, the present position after the private conferences between the various parties which have been held during the last few days

Roumania and Bulgaria are practically in agreement, only details remaining to be settled

As regards Servia, Bulgaria is [illegible] give her Strumnitsa, Radovista, Ishtib, and Kochana. She would probably yield if necessary as regards all four towns, though Russia may press Servia to leave Bulgaria Strumnitsa, Radovista and Kochana.

The Greek delegates have presented their demands as follows: Frontier starting from Maka, compensation for damage (not war indemnity), privileges for Greeks in Bulgaria similar to those demanded by Roumania for Vlachs in Bulgaria. The Greek delegates have explained to the Bulgarian delegates that these are their extreme demands, and that they would accept a frontier starting from Lagos. They have also told the Roumanian delegates, but not the Bulgarian delegates, that the Greek Government might consent to a frontier starting from the mouth of the Mesta, but running far enough north to include Chaldagh. The Greek demands are to be discussed with the Bulgarian delegates to-day.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[35767] No. 32.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August 2, 1913.*

BRITISH firms at Xanthi have not suffered any damage. Persons mentioned in [illegible] of 26th and 30th July are all safe and well

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[35678 No. 33.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.**

(No. 572.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 2, 1913.*

BATOUM telegram of 2nd August: Reported Russian advance into Armenia. [illegible] whether there is any truth in this

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[35833 No. 34

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 1[illegible])
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 2, 1913.*

ATHENS telegram No. 146 of 2nd August.

Russian Minister tells me that his Government is in favour of Cavalla going to Bulgaria. Austrian and Italian Ministers, especially the latter, are working in the same sense.

French Minister and, I believe, the German Minister favour retention of Cavalla by Greece.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

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* Also to Mr. Marling (No. 374).

[35837] No. 35

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 3, 1913*

MY telegrams Nos. 153 of 1st August and 155 of 2nd August.

Position to-day is, I believe, as follows:—

Servian delegates have been strongly urged by Roumanian delegates and by Russian Minister [illegible] telegraphed to consult Servian Chief of Staff [illegible] reserves in regard to Kochana similar to those which [illegible] in regard to Cavalla

Trading of [illegible] Bulgarian frontier on the map has been signed by Roumanian and Bulgarian delegates

As regards Greece, Bulgarian counter-proposals fall far short of Greek minimum demands.

At to-morrow's meeting of Conference suspension of hostilities will be probably prolonged for three days

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[35840] No. 36.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 285.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August [illegible], 1913.*

FROM conversation which I had yesterday, Russian Government do not yet appear [illegible] course of action

His Excellency [illegible] once more that Turkey could not be allowed to retain possession of Adrianople, but admitted that he did not himself know what Russia would do to make her withdraw. His language was not quite so [illegible] ago, and he spoke more of inducements which might be offered to Turkey, [illegible] Russia's consent to 4 per cent. customs increase, rectification of Enos-Mana line, [illegible] than of actual coercion. He evidently wishes to avoid isolated action except in [illegible] last resort, for fear that it may lead to Austrian intervention against Servia, and [illegible] closing of Dardanelles, which, in view of approaching harvest, would be serious blow to Russia. He had, he said, been greatly alarmed by report which had reached him on previous day of their having been closed, as had it been confirmed Russia would have had to take energetic measures. He told me that recall of two Russian ships stationed at Constantinople, referred to in my telegram No. 276 of 26th July, would be carried out at moment which Russian Ambassador considered most opportune [illegible] nothing said about it until it had actually been done

Referring to Bucharest negotiations, his Excellency said he had told Bulgarians they must sign whatever settlement was imposed on them, and trust to Powers to revise it later on. He then asked [illegible] with regard to Cavalla being assigned to Bulgaria or Greece. I said that only reference you had made [illegible] question was contained in [? group omitted], of which I had communicated [illegible] substance (your telegram No. 228 of 17th July to Vienna). It seemed to me that as final settlement would have to be approved by Powers important point was that Russia and Austria, as Powers most directly interested, should come to an understanding on the subject, and I felt sure you would not raise difficulties to any arrangement on which they were both agreed. His Excellency replied that he wanted you to do more than this and said he was most anxious you should support Bulgarian claims, especially in the matter of Cavalla, as against those of Greece. Greeks were getting above themselves, and were exploiting atrocities committed by Bulgarians for their own ends when they themselves had been guilty of atrocities equally bad if not worse. He also hoped you would support Servian claims as against Austria, who was even opposing their claim to all territory up to Vardar, whereas his Excellency thought they ought to have Ishtib as well.

[35838] No. 37.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 380.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 3, 1913.*

MINES in the Sea of Marmora.

Turkey has notified discovery of new floating torpedo near 40° 42′ north, 28° 19′ east, adding active search is now in progress for its recovery. Chambre Maritime has further received official report of another floating torpedo discovered off Kara-Boga. Ottoman Ministry decline responsibility for possible results.

[35851] No. 38.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Bucharest, August 4, 1913.*

SUSPENSION of hostilities has been prolonged from three days till noon on Friday.

[35856] No. 39.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 4.)

No. 7.
(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Salonica, August 4, 1913.*

My despatch No. 71 of 1st August.

Tobacco worth more than 100,000*l.*, belonging to Commercial Company, having been believed to have been destroyed by the Bulgars at Serres and Djoumma, company request that steps should be taken with a view to protection of large stock now lying at Kustendil, Dubnitza, Philippopoli, Hasskoui, in the event of recommencement of hostilities.

[35867] No. 40.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 665.)
Sir, *Constantinople, July 29, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a letter from the President of the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration on the subject of alleged violations of the Debt's interests in Albania.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 40.

Sir A. Block to Mr. Marling.

Ministère des Affaires, *Constantinople, le 9 (22) juillet 1913.*

COMME suite à ma lettre du 12 juillet courant, par laquelle j'ai dû signaler à votre Excellence l'attitude arbitrairement adoptée par le Gouvernement provisoire albanais à l'égard de notre administration, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le dit Gouvernement vient d'accentuer encore cette attitude regrettable.

Par une lettre en date du 18 courant de l'inspecteur de la Dette publique en Albanie nous avise que le personnel de l'administration a été invité par les autorités albanaises à administrer les revenus concédés pour le compte du Gouvernement précité, sous menace de révocation des agents qui s'opposeraient à cette mesure.

Notre conseil d'administration est convaincu que, devant une violation aussi flagrante des engagements pris sous la garantie de l'Europe envers les porteurs étrangers de fonds ottomans, votre énergique intervention ne saurait manquer de se produire pour rappeler les autorités albanaises au respect de ces engagements.

En remerciant par avance votre Excellence des soins qu'elle voudra bien donner à cette affaire, je la prie, &c.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président du Conseil,
ADAM BLOCK.

[35956] No. 41.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 77.)
Sir, *Bucharest, July 26, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 143 of to-day, I have the honour to report that I called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning to inform him of the representation which you had instructed Sir Francis Elliot to make at Athens in favour of a prompt cessation of hostilities. As reported in my telegram No. 142 of this morning, M. Majorescu said that he was most grateful for your action, from which he saw that Roumania's efforts to hasten a cessation of hostilities were appreciated. Anything coming from His Majesty's Government which can be construed as approval of the rôle of moderator which Roumania has assumed, will be especially welcome, because of the vehemently hostile attitude of a portion of the British press, which ignores altogether the useful side of Roumania's action, and chooses to assume that England is fishing in troubled waters.

After expressing thanks for your action at Athens, M. Majorescu was going on to speak of the unfortunate repercussion which the advance of Turkish troops beyond the line fixed by the Treaty of London was likely to have on the Peace Conference at Bucharest, when Prince Fürstenburg, the Austrian Minister, and a little later, Mr. Waddington, the German Minister, called and were shown into the room where M. Majorescu and I were conversing. His Excellency then took the opportunity of asking the three Ministers to confer with their French, Italian, and Russian colleagues in order to address to their Governments an identic telegram expressing his Excellency's appreciation with regard to Turkey's action in [illegible] of Bucharest.

In spite of M. Majorescu's observation to Prince Fürstenberg, M. de Waddington and Count Nigra, Austro-Hungarian Minister, that I ought to support the telegram by my own, in the course of our conversation, M. Majorescu said that Roumania could not take action to repel the Turks. The fact that this announcement was volunteered by M. Majorescu, and that nothing whatever was said by either of my colleagues who were present or by me to elicit such a statement, suggests the thought that the idea of eventually using the Roumanian troops now in Bulgaria to drive back the Turks was at one time contemplated by the Cabinet, and, indeed, from other indications, I have reason to believe that this really was so. I hear on good authority that the King recently in conversation remarked that in such a course, Roumania would, at any rate, have the sympathy of the British press. It is not unlikely that the Cabinet put out feelers as to how such a policy would commend itself to the country. They are evidently now aware that action against the Turks would be unpopular, and have abandoned the idea. Roumania's sympathy with Turkey is deep-rooted, and it would certainly be difficult to reconcile the country to a campaign against her in Bulgaria's interest.

I have, &c.,
G. BARCLAY.

[36193]

No. 42

Mr Marling to the Earl of Onslow.—(Received August 5.)

My dear Onslow, *Constantinople, July 26, 1913.*

I GAVE your letter of the 3rd July, respecting the Top-Hané land and the Quay Company, to Weakley, who has had a long talk with the local manager, Charrier, and has given me the enclosed memorandum of their conversation.

I must say that it seems to me that, so long as the Company does not carry out the stipulations of its concession for the construction of quays on both sides of the Golden Horn between the two bridges, it is in a poor position, legally speaking, to insist on the Government enforcing its monopoly. However, we shall, of course, do what we can

Yours very sincerely,
CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 42

Memorandum by Mr. Weakley respecting the Constantinople Quay Company and the Land at Top-Hane.

I HAVE had a talk with M. Charrier, the director of the Société des Quais about the proposed purchase by the Société of the Top-Hané lands. [illegible] who he told me, I understand the Société is not very anxious to acquire this property but as the Turkish Government are in great need of money, and are disposed to sell the whole of the Top-Hané land, as well as the barracks at the back, the Société have felt obliged to move, fearing lest the property fall into other hands and the sea frontage be made use of by the new proprietors as a landing place for goods, &c., and that the rights of the Quay Company would thereby be infringed. Charrier said the Deutsche Orient Bank had been making overtures to the Government for taking over the land, but he thought the Deutsche Orient Bank were acting for a Belgian concern, which may probably be the Banque d'Anvers, who tried to buy the Taxim grounds early in the year

The Quay Company have surveyed the property, which they valued at about £ T. 350,000. The Government, however, talk of £ T. 1,000,000, and are intent on bargaining, but no negotiations have taken place since Mahmoud Shefket Pasha's death. I told Charrier I thought the interests of the Quay Company were sufficiently guarded by the terms of their convention and concession, which gave them a monopoly in the port, but that, should the property pass into other hands, I suggested that it might be possible to have a clause inserted in the deed and contract of sale stipulating that the sea frontage could not be made use of for the landing of goods and passengers discharged from steamers in the port without paying the quay dues to the Constantinople Quay Company. I said I thought the property would be a doubtful acquisition for the Quay Company, as the more important interests of the Company seemed to me to be on the Stamboul side of the harbour, where the extension of the quay surfaces was an urgent necessity

July 22, 1913.

[35910]

No. 43.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Cettinjé, July 28, 1913.*

THE arrangements reported in my preceding despatch for the evacuation of San Giovanni di Medua by the Montenegrins have, according to information received from Vice-Admiral Burney, now been carried out. I understand that the Montenegrin telegraph station on the plain of Kastrati, which had been the cause of suspicion, if not of friction, in connection with that tribe, has also been abandoned. The decision of the Montenegrin Government may have been hastened by the conviction that as long as there were Montenegrin troops on Albanian soil no financial assistance would be forthcoming from the Powers. But there are nevertheless signs

of vague hopes being entertained that some of the evacuated territory may eventually be recovered.

A short time ago Vice-Admiral Burney desired to establish a signal station on the top of the "Little Taraboch" in order to facilitate communications with his ship at the mouth of the Bojana. The hill in question is immediately above Scutari, on the right bank of the Bojana, and, with a view to its inclusion in Albanian territory, the proposed frontier line from the Bojana to the lake was laid down by the Powers in April. As, however, the hill had not been mentioned in the arrangement arrived between the international forces at the Montenegrin evacuation, the U.S. fort, Vice-Admiral Burney seems to have thought desirable to consult Montenegrin Government on the subject. M. Plamenatza the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the latter Government did not think it necessary to inform the Montenegrin Government, but, as their consent had been asked, he earnestly begged me to convey to the vice-admiral privately that he was most anxious that the proposal should not be carried out. M. Plamenatza's action would seem to betray an interest in bringing, as some future date, a revision of the boundary line and a fear that his claim might be weakened by any evidence that the possession of the summit was either necessary or advantageous to the authorities of the town of Scutari. The fort at the top was defended with great determination by the Turks during the last siege, and entirely dominates the town, but, except as a strategical position, the hill is valueless, and it is difficult to see what legitimate purpose it could serve in other hands than those of the Government of Scutari.

During the past month I gather that the Montenegrin Government have been in communication with Essad Pasha at Durazzo, as M. Plamenatz recently elicited from the latter, received assurances from him which they consider satisfactory that although he had thought it better to go to Rome and Vienna, his "principles were the same," that is, that "he was only working for Albania." At the same time, efforts are being made by the King to keep in touch with and recover the good-will of the Moslems in the plain round Scutari.

A deputation from the district of Grishi, which must have been encouraged to come here, has received promises of a distribution of corn, nominally on account of the damage done by the Montenegrin troops during the siege. Such, at least, was the explanation which the King desired should be conveyed to Vice-Admiral Burney. No compensation of the sort appears to have been offered to the Christians, and it might seem as if the King were anxious to gain some object by supporting Essad Pasha and the Moslems.

I have, &c.
J. DE SALIS.

[35493]

No. 44

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 674.)
Sir, *Constantinople July 27, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two despatches from the British vice-consul at Rodosto, reporting on the situation in Thrace

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure 1 in No. 44.

Acting Vice-Consul Streater to Mr. Marling.

(No. 31.)
Excellence, *Rodosto, le 2me juillet, 1913.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous confirmer mon rapport d'hier

Les villages incendiés, pillés et dont la majeure partie de leurs habitants ont été anéantis sont au nombre de treize: Malgara, Caliva, Avrandjik Sakteua, Tata Vreni, Vrestrija, Tartarkeuy, Doumkeuy, Mastanar, Dourbatch, Soukaikeuy Haskeuy, Kostu Pacha et Farach.

Pour les villages grecs et bulgares à l'ouest, au sud et au nord de Malgara, nous n'avons aucune nouvelle, non plus pour ceux du caza de Krchan et d'Ouzun Keupru

à Malgara nous n'avons encore aucune nouvelle; la personne que j'ai envoyée n'est pas encore revenue, je crains qu'il ne lui soit arrivé quelque malheur.

A Gueuen presque tout le peuple, de neuf mille environ, 1,000 personnes qui s'étaient réfugiées dans le monastère de ce village, ont été brûlées vivantes par les Turcs, qui mirent le feu. Une personne, qui a pu se sauver avec son chariot et que je connais personnellement, m'a fait ces trois autres récits. Il ajoute ces faits ajoute que sur les 9,000 habitants restés à Gueuen 2,000 environ ont été massacrés dans les rues et dans les maisons, et que si de prompts secours ne leur sont pas envoyés ils mourront de faim.

A Kermadji pas de nouvelle du village est brûlé mais j'ignore le sort de ses habitants ainsi que ceux des villages que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous mentionner plus haut.

Aujourd'hui Talaat Bey, le Ministre de l'Intérieur, est venu. Il a reçu les évêques grec et arménien, qui lui ont exposé leurs plaintes sur la déplorable situation et les atrocités et les poursuites dont leurs coreligionnaires sont l'objet de la part des troupes, des bandes et de la populace turque.

Talaat Bey devrait aller à Malgara et à Hairobol constater lui même les faits; après prétexte qu'il n'y avait pas d'autorobile, il a chargé une commission mixte d'aller et de faire une enquête.

La commission est partie; elle se compose de six membres: deux Turcs, deux Grecs et deux Arméniens.

Comme j'ai eu l'honneur de le voir Talaat Bey, malgré ses bonnes intentions qu'il a exprimées, ne semble pas se rendre compte de la gravité de la situation à Malgara. Il semble, du moins, qu'il ne regrettait que les événements très sévères pour nos sujets chrétiens, les seuls qui soient les victimes de leur fanatisme, et qu'il ne fasse rien de sérieux pour arrêter les progrès de ce désordre, et qu'il espère que dans deux jours la tranquillité régnerait dans la région. Qu'il avait déjà envoyé plusieurs télégrammes à Constantinople pour l'envoi immédiat de 1,000 gendarmes avec Hadji Adil bey, sous-Ministre de l'Intérieur, qui est chargé de la réorganisation du vilayet d'Andrinople et que le Gouvernement avait demandé déjà au commandant du corps d'armée de Constantinople de mettre à sa disposition le Mutessarif de Gallipoli avec un bataillon de soldats de cette ville, assez bien organisé pour pouvoir être transporté très rapidement à Malgara. Excellence, j'ai insisté auprès de Talaat Bey et de ses collègues, sur la nécessité d'une intervention énergique et de prompte envoi de troupes, vous en parlerai plus loin dans les Turcs pour l'extermination ou la race chrétienne; d'ailleurs, surtout le passage des armées pour l'occupation des territoires leur étant accordé par la décision de Londres, tous les villages étaient rasés et les habitants massacrés. Et les craintes que j'ai manifestées dans mes précédents rapports et que j'ai formulées verbalement au commandant du stationnaire "Imogene" et au drogman de votre ambassade se réalisent malheureusement, et il y a crainte qu'il n'y ait le reste, il y a beaucoup de choses à sauver.

Notre pauvre région est si éprouvée par la guerre, par les réquisitions d'après guerre, qu'elle n'était pas sans bourse délier. Ces pauvres populations après s'être plaintes de leur sort se trouvent réduites à la plus grande misère. Toutes les troupes, à très peu d'exceptions près, auxquelles il ne reste que les ruines fumantes de leurs demeures et rien que devront-elles vivre? Après tant d'atrocités que vont-elles devenir? D'ailleurs, je demande les secours, tous ceux qui arrivent à Constantinople pour la région peut venir en aide à tant de misères? Et je crois, la journée aux seuls villages que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous faire signaler comme brûlés il faut calculer au moins plus de 7,000 à 8,000 personnes dans la nécessité la plus urgente.

Votre haute intervention, Excellence, s'impose, et j'aime à espérer qu'il vous plaira d'user votre influence auprès les âmes charitables pour que de prompts secours leur soient prodigués dans le plus bref délai.

Votre, &c.
J. W. STREATER

Enclosure 2 in No. 44

Acting Vice-Consul Streater to Mr Marling.

(No. 35.)

Excellence, *Rodosto, le 23 juillet*, 1913.

J'AI l'honneur de vous remettre, ci-inclus, copie de la lettre que je viens de recevoir de Malgara. Elle dépeint sous un jour très sombre la déplorable situation de Malgara et de ses dépendances.

Aux treize villages incendiés que je signalais hier à votre Excellence, à cette liste noire il faut ajouter cinq autres qui ont eu le même sort. Kradikeuy, Lisgar, Guénen, Haskeuy de Malgara et Kurtly, et qui sait combien d'autres dont nous ignorons le sort.

Dans l'incendie de Malgara tout le marché a brûlé 280 magasins: et 150 maisons ont été la proie des flammes. Le chiffre des morts est inconnu. Les Arméniens, d'après un avis à leur évêché, ont eu à Malgara même une cinquantaine, dont dix seulement ont été enterrés.

La famine que je prévoyais commence à se faire sentir à Malgara et dans les villages incendiés. On me demande de les aider. Mon Dieu, que puis-je faire? Il faut des hommes pour secourir tant de misère. Les Arméniens n'ont pour les sours 1,500 à 2,000 piastres et autres provisions.

J'irai tantôt voir le Gouverneur, lui montrer la lettre que j'ai l'honneur d'y joindre, en le priant de faire le nécessaire. Des gendarmes ou des soldats, il pourra les envoyer, mais du pain, il dira Oui, pour rien faire. Il a à soigner les Turcs qu'ils font porter d'Anatolie, lesquels jusqu'à l'arrivée à la destination où il leur sera désignée, mettront à sac toutes les campagnes, surtout les villages chrétiens qui par cela auraient été épargnés.

Excellence, devant tant de crimes et de désolations le monde civilisé peut-il rester simple spectateur? La faute de ces pauvres populations est-elle d'avoir eu la malechance de naître en sol turc? Que fera-t-on de tant d'orphelins, doit-on les laisser servir de cible de nouveau aux caprices et de la barbarie des Turcs?

La Thrace est devenue la nouvelle Macédoine et la Turquie Musulmane qu'elle le reste, elle décide que les chrétiens de ces régions doivent disparaître et elle exécute son plan.

Les Grandes Puissances devront-elles rester impassibles devant tant d'horreurs, de massacres, d'incendies, de pillages? C'est un crime de l'humanité. Il faut que ça finisse. Dans le caza de Hairobol il n'y a plus de villages chrétiens.

La famine suit: elle fauche ce que la barbarie turque a laissé. Faites un appel aux âmes charitables. Venez à leur secours. Ces pauvres populations sont dignes de votre pitié. Vous serez bénis et leur reconnaissance sera éternelle.

Votre, &c.
J. W. STREATER.

Enclosure 3 in No. 44

Père à Calarasny to Acting Vice-Consul Streater

Très honoré Monsieur, *Malgara, le 21 juillet*, 1913.

CONFORMÉMENT à votre demande, je m'empresse de vous transmettre les informations suivantes aussi brièvement que possible.

L'arrivée turque est arrivée le mardi soir, 15 courant. Les bachi-bouzouques ont pénétré à la suite. Les chrétiens qui se trouvaient dans les champs avec leurs troupeaux ont été saisis, maltraités, emprisonnés, certains tués. Les mêmes scènes se renouvelèrent le lendemain en pleine ville et même devant la sous-préfecture, où plusieurs chrétiens réquisitionnés avec leurs charrettes servirent de jouet aux hordes durant aux plus barbares caprices des Arabes, incités par les bachi-bouzouques.

Le jeudi matin l'armée se retira en grande partie dans la direction de Karaköl. Ce fut le signal du pillage, qui dura presque toute la journée, au marché et dans quelques maisons arméniennes. Soldats et bachi-bouzouques s'y donnèrent la main. Le soir le feu fut mis au marché: l'incendie dura toute la nuit et dévora tout le marché et une partie du quartier arménien. Tous ceux qui sortaient de leurs maisons sous le feu de l'incendie étaient massacrés. Les villages de Gueuen, Kradikeuy, Lisgar, Viranchehir, Haskeuy de Malgara, Kurtly, &c., ont été incendiés. D'affreuses scènes de carnage y ont été commises. Partout les jeunes filles violées, comme dans l'autre monde. Gueuen était toute catholique, Lisgar un important poste de mission. Tout est détruit. Nous ignorons le sort de la population. Celle ci est dispersée dans toutes les directions d'alentour. Une statistique est impossible, ainsi les morts se comptent par les centaines. Les nouvelles sinistres nous arrivent d'heure en heure. Nous ignorons le sort de Daoudeli. Tous les vivres ont disparu dans l'incendie. On commence à souffrir de la faim. Partout la destruction est complète. La menace de nouveaux incendies et de nouveaux massacres pèse sur nous. Les villages encore saufs échappèrent difficilement. Il faut un secours prompt et énergique pour sauver ce qui reste. Dans quelques

jours il n'y aura plus âme qui vive dans ces parages, si nos craintes se réalisent. Si possible, l'envoi prompt d'un détachement est absolument nécessaire et aussi vite que possible.

Veuillez transmettre ces nouvelles à qui de droit et croyez à notre assurance que rien n'est au-dessus de la vérité. La population ruinée de toutes façons n'est pas encore revenue de sa panique, et pour cause : on annonce que le tribunal martial sera érigé à Malgara. Ce sera le meilleur moyen de faire disparaître les témoins. Il est encore temps de les sauver. Dans l'espoir que vous vous efforcerez de faire votre possible en faveur de ces populations, je vous prie d'agréer l'assurance, &c.

Père à Calarassy

P.S.—Si possible venez. Envoyez-moi des secours le plus tôt possible. Attendons demain. Situation très très grave, critique ; faites vite, je vous prie : nous sommes perdus sans cela.

P à C.

[35484] No. 45.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 675.)

Sir, *Constantinople, July 28, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a letter from the Armenian Patriarch, reporting on massacres of Armenians alleged to have taken place at Malgara and Rodosto, and requesting the aid of His Majesty's Government to prevent further massacres.

This letter also encloses a copy of a memorandum addressed to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure 1 in No. 45.

Mgr. Orchorouni to Mr. Marling.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 8 (21) juillet, 1913.*

NOUS nous faisons un devoir d'exprimer, au nom de la nation arménienne, notre profonde gratitude à votre Excellence pour tout ce que, en ces tristes circonstances, elle a bien voulu faire en faveur de nos nationaux et pour les mesures efficaces qu'elle a bien voulu adopter.

Nous sommes, cependant, obligé de déclarer que contrairement aux démentis du Gouvernement ottoman, formulés verbalement ou sous forme de communiqués à la presse, le massacre et la terreur à Rodosto et aux environs ont pris, ainsi que cela ressort des rapports ci-joints, des proportions considérables.

Des nouvelles extrêmement inquiétantes arrivent aussi de Malgara, et notre angoisse augmente de ce fait que les autorités locales empêchent notre délégation de se rendre à Malgara.

La nation arménienne ayant, dans le passé, subi à Adana, ainsi que dans les autres provinces arméniennes de douloureuses et terribles épreuves, et payé pour connaître la mentalité de l'armée ottomane et des volontaires et indigènes turcs. D'autre part, étant donné le langage provocateur à l'excès de la presse musulmane, nous redoutons fort que l'armée turque et les volontaires qui l'accompagnent et sont déjà à Andrinople ne marquent leur entrée dans cette ville par un massacre encore plus effroyable de population arménienne.

Nous sollicitons par conséquent de votre Excellence de vouloir bien obtenir

1. L'adoption de mesures rapides propres à prévenir de nouveaux massacres.
2. L'ouverture d'une enquête par une commission mixte, à l'effet de découvrir les coupables.
3. L'interdiction des perquisitions inopportunes ordonnées par les autorités locales.
4. L'envoi, sans retard, à Rodosto d'une commission mixte d'enquête.

Nous avons fait, dès le premier jour, des démarches continuelles auprès de la Sublime Porte et lui avons, en dernier lieu, adressé un mémorandum dont copie ci-jointe.

En remerciant d'avance votre Excellence de sa toute-puissante intervention et en appelant les bénédictions divines sur elle et sur sa noble famille, nous vous prions, &c.

Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie,
OHANNES ORCHOUNNI

Enclosure 2 in No. 45.

Memorandum addressed to the Sublime Porte

NOUS demandons instamment à votre Excellence de vouloir bien, d'urgence ordonner

L'établissement de l'identité des Arméniens assassinés à Rodosto et aux environs et l'inhumation de ces victimes, avec accomplissement des devoirs prescrits par la religion et surtout la communication de renseignements exacts touchant les Arméniens de Malgara ;

L'envoi, sans retard, de Constantinople d'une commission mixte, à l'effet de procéder à une enquête impartiale et approfondie, pour découvrir les auteurs et instigateurs de ces crimes, de fixer, selon leur degré de culpabilité et de façon exemplaire leur peine et d'appliquer celle-ci sur place ;

La [illegible] de la vie et des biens des Arméniens soient désormais respectés dans les localités occupées par l'armée ottomane ;

La publication—afin de détruire toute fausse suspicion dans l'esprit de nos compatriotes musulmans—d'un communiqué officiel où il soit formellement déclaré que les Arméniens n'ont aucune part de responsabilité dans les récents événements ;

Que les autorités locales s'abstiennent d'arrêter les Arméniens sur les accusations calomnieuses de gens sans aveu et élargissent ceux qui ont été incarcérés ;

La levée de l'interdiction empêchant les Arméniens d'aller et venir à Rodosto et aux environs, et la garantie de leur sécurité, afin qu'ils puissent rouvrir leurs boutiques et reprendre leurs travaux agricoles et autres occupations ;

De ne pas considérer comme usurpateurs ceux qui, au cours de l'exode des mouhadjirs et de la population locale ont acheté à ces derniers les biens et objets qu'ils auraient vendus de leur propre gré, de ne pas agir à leur égard en raison de s'engager de biens ou objets usurpés, et de ne pas permettre que leurs domiciles soient perquisitionnés ;

Au cas où, pour des raisons légales majeures, des perquisitions seraient absolument nécessaires, donner aux fonctionnaires chargés de ce soin des instructions sévères afin qu'ils s'abstiennent de tout abus.

Rodosto, le 8 (21) juillet, 1913.

Un témoin oculaire grec, [illegible] de Chora (Malgara), vient d'arriver. D'après son récit, mercredi matin, vers 11 heures, les soldats et les mouhadjirs ont mis le feu au village précité et exterminé 300 familles grecques, soit les deux tiers de la population grecque de la localité. Les enfants et les femmes mêmes n'auraient pas été épargnés. Trois prêtres grecs auraient été également assassinés.

Le même témoin oculaire affirme que Malgara est entourée d'un cordon militaire, que le quartier arménien a été incendié et la majeure partie de la population arménienne massacrée.

Le plus malheureux est qu'on ne laisse personne entrer à Malgara, ni en sortir.

Nous attendons ce soir des nouvelles détaillées.

[35871] No. 46.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 678.)

Sir, *Constantinople, July 28, 1913.*

IN continuation of my despatch, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copies of three despatches from the British vice-consul at Rodosto concerning the excesses committed by the Turkish troops and returning refugees at Malgara and in the surrounding villages.

Even when every allowance is made for possible exaggeration of expression not [illegible] in the circumstances in which the report is written, it is clear that brutalities [illegible] a large scale have been committed that should put the Turkish Government, which is directly responsible for them, beyond the pale of civilised States.

Mr Streater's remarks that the local authorities are attempting to represent the excesses as the work of Bulgarians are instructive, and I have no manner of doubt that his statements are perfectly correct.

It is of supreme importance to the Turks at this moment to foment the feeling of enmity against Bulgaria engendered in Greece by the accounts of the massacres at Serres and Nigrita, so as to prevent the Balkan "bloc," with which the Treaty of London was signed, from being formed again, and for this purpose the committee will shrink from nothing. It may seem difficult to believe that, in the twentieth century, massacres can be deliberately planned with the intention of laying the blame on others, but the Adana massacres, organised to justify the deposition of Abdul Hamid, are surely sufficient recent testimony.

Mr Streater's report has been confirmed in practically every essential detail by [illegible] independent evidence, and I learn that the report made by a delegate sent to investigate on the spot by the Œcumenical Patriarch estimates the number of persons, mostly Greeks, murdered at 16,000, while 13,000 are homeless, and 40 to 50 villages have been destroyed.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M MARLING

P.S. Since writing the foregoing, I have received a copy of a report by the Armenian Patriarch's delegate who has visited Malgara. It is dated the 25th July, and states that twelve Armenians have been killed (among them the correspondent of the [illegible] Mr Streater's report [illegible] eight missing while nine are detained in prison for charges of which the kaimakam himself is said to be ignorant.

C. M. M

[35872] No. 47.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 679.)

Sir, *Constantinople, July 28, 1913.*

WITH reference to Sir G Lowther's telegram No. 302 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that on the 15th instant the steamship "Kherson" passed through the Dardanelles for Mount Athos with 200 troops on board.

These troops, His Majesty's vice-consul at the Dardanelles reports, were intended to ship the turbulent section of the monks to Russia.

I understand from other sources that this has now been done, and I learn that the Russian Embassy consider the incident to be closed

I have, &c.
CHARLES M MARLING

[35958] No. 48.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 79.)

Sir, *Bucharest, July 29, 1913*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Roumanian plenipotentiaries for the coming Conference have now been appointed. They are M. Maioresco, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, M Take Jonesco, Minister of the Interior and Chief of the Conservative Democrat party, M. Marghiloman, Minister of Finance (Conservative); and M. Dissesco, Minister of Public Instruction (Conservative Democrat)

General Coanda, Inspector-General of Artillery, and Colonel Christesco, of the General Staff, are attached to the plenipotentiaries as military experts.

It will be noticed that each section of the Cabinet—the Conservatives and the Conservative Democrats—furnishes two of the plenipotentiaries. I understand [illegible] a leading member of the Liberal party, M. Costinesco, former Minister of Finance, was invited to serve but declined.

I have, &
G. BARCLAY

[35959] No. 49.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 80.)

Sir, *Bucharest, July [illegible]*

I LEARN that the Bulgarian plenipotentiaries have asked the Roumanian Government to occupy Widin in order to save it from the bombardment with which it was threatened by the Servian troops. This the Roumanian Government have declined to do. It would not, however, be at all to Roumania's liking that the Servians should occupy Widin which, if it were to be lost by Bulgaria, should [illegible] go to Roumania, there being a considerable Roumanian population [illegible] and I understand that M. Maioresco has [illegible] to cause orders to be sent to the Servian troops to refrain from attacking the town

I have, &c
G. BARCLAY

[35876] No. 50

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 68[illegible] Very Confidential).

Sir, *Constantinople, July [illegible]*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 367 of the 27th instant, I have the honour to report that I had some conversation yesterday with Sir Adam Block on the question of the advance of £T. 500,000 by the Council of the Ottoman Debt to the Turkish Government. Sir A. Block went over practically all the ground covered [illegible] private letter to me, a copy of which, in order to ensure representing his [illegible] I enclose herewith.

Sir A. Block insisted a good deal on the necessity of assisting the Government in its present straits. The Debt, he said, did not wish, of course, to encourage the Government to squander money, and always haggled over and delayed every advance as much as possible, but they felt the Government machine must be kept going, and for that purpose salaries must be paid. There was also the possibility that if the Debt refused to make such advances as it properly could without injuring the bondholders' interests, the Government, which had hitherto faithfully respected the Debt's rights, might seize its revenues. In that case would His Majesty's Government enforce the bondholders' rights? To judge by their refusal to allow the Debt to be represented at the Financial Commission at Paris, they would not do so. I said that there seemed

to me to be special reasons for that refusal, and at any rate the Debt had been constantly asking for and receiving the support of His Majesty's Government to protect its interests when they had been threatened during the course of the war. There was in the hint I had been instructed to convey to him, no question, as he suggested, of "striking at the Government," but you had been concerned at the prospect of the Government getting so large a sum as £T. 2,000,000, which just at this moment could only encourage the Turks in a policy of adventure which might be eventually quite as detrimental to the bondholders' interests as the circumstances he foresaw. However, the advance of £T 2,000,000 had dropped, and we need not discuss it further. I quite saw the difficulty of his own position as regards the later proposition for an advance of £T 500,000, and if, as Sir A Block asserted, it was to be used for the Bairam and Ramazan salaries, perhaps not much harm would be done; the Turks had taken Adrianople, and there did not seem to be any immediate sign that they meant to do more. Sir A Block said he thought the giving or withholding of the £T 500,000 would have little effect; he knew that some of the leading men in the Committee, such as Talaat Bey, had been opposed to the advance to Adrianople, and feared that, as in some of the Balkan States, the army was the real guiding force in Turkish politics. He did not believe that the Turks could be removed from Adrianople except by force.

Sir A. Block's argument that it is greatly to the advantage of the bondholders to get 6 per cent. interest on the advance, instead of 2 per cent. on the money as a deposit in the bank, requires some qualification. The bondholders' advantage is by no means the difference between 6 per cent and 2 per cent. The coupon to the bondholders is amply secured, and the sums accruing from interest of this kind goes to swell the Debt's surplus on which there are various liens, *e.g.*, the Bagdad Railway guarantees. After these assignments the surplus is divided, 75 per cent. reverting to the Government and 25 per cent. going to the extraordinary sinking fund. The actual injury to the bondholders when measured in cash is therefore not very serious. The argument based on the possibility of the seizure of the Debt's revenues appears to me to be weak. The Government will not resort to that extreme measure for the want of a mere £T. 500,000. The possibility of such an event is, I think, brought much nearer by encouraging the Government by advancing money on easy terms to indulge in adventure the ultimate cost of which may run to much larger figures, nor would any consideration for the previous accommodating spirit of the Debt deter the Government.

To me Sir A Block's action seems like a piece of very unnecessary special pleading to defend a course of action to which the writer has been urged by his political predilections. Sir A. Block is, as you know, an avowed believer in the mission of the Committee of Union and Progress to regenerate Turkey, and he has always been disposed to be at issue with the Embassy which holds a less flattering opinion of that body. He is therefore ready to assist the present Committee Government so far as lies in the interests of the British bondholders will properly allow, while carefully resents any [illegible] appearance of interference with his work, and now, specially would resent the action of the Embassy.

I have &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 30.

Sir A. Block to Mr. Marling.

My dear Marling, *Constantinople, July 27, 1913.*

YOUR private letter of the 26th July, received last night.

This is a new and serious departure. To use the Debt as an instrument to bring pressure on the Turkish Government would surely be to embitter the relations between the Council and the Government, which may not suit the bondholders in the long run.

Only the other day the French Government appeared to be endeavouring to use the Debt as an instrument to push their railway concessions in Asia Minor, which could not be admitted by myself or colleagues.

If one Power, for a political or other interest, dictates the line of conduct of the Council to-day, some other Power may do so to-morrow. This would soon lead to a deadlock amongst the delegates.

I could not, therefore, alone have taken the responsibility of suspending a decision of the Council, in spite of my earnest desire to assist His Majesty's Government. I should have had to obtain the consent of all my colleagues.

I venture to think that we are best left out of politics.

The scheme, however, that you speak of is dead.

The Turkish Ministry of Finance made to us some three weeks ago (I have not the dates here) a proposal to substitute for the capital sum paid by the Italian Government in compensation for our Tripoli revenues (which on the extinction of the Debt reverts to them), an annual revenue to be formally ceded to the bondholders. The revenue was to be one of those we collect to-day for the Turkish Government.

This proposal, which seemed to some of us, the British bondholders among these, expedient and in many respects advantageous to the bondholders, met, however, with some objections, and fell through.

A counter proposal has now been made by the French syndicate, supported by the German and Austrian syndicates, to advance to the Government from our cash balance at the bank a sum of £T. 500,000, to be repaid out of the revenues we encash for Government account.

This is an ordinary and current operation, and as the operation gives us a better rate of interest (6 per cent. instead of 2 per cent.) than leaving the money in the bank we have no hesitation in undertaking it provided the security is good.

In the present case we should, as a matter of fact, have recourse to part of the paid proceeds of the Italian indemnity money, our bank balance being low, but this fact is not known officially to the Turkish Government, and the question is a simple "tresorerie" operation involving no question of principle.

The Turkish Government having learned in Paris that the French syndicate had made this proposal, which has been accepted by all the syndicates, I have been asked to conclude the business, and I have informed them on Friday that they can have the money. I have the money lying idle at the bank. If I don't lend the money I lose 6 per cent on £T 500,000, or £T 30,000 a year, or £T. 2,500 a month.

It is exceedingly difficult for me to go back on my word and on the decision of the Council the more so as the operation is to the advantage of the bondholders.

Additionally I feel that the attitude of the Turkish Government throughout the war and in most critical circumstances has been most correct, and that we should, if possible, help them to tide over the financial crisis lest they should be obliged to violate their engagements to the bondholders, which would bring down Turkish funds and Turkish credit with a run.

As a matter of fact I do not believe that the want of £T. 500,000, or of a good deal more than that, will prevent the Turks from sticking to Adrianople to the last.

Apart from the necessity for the Debt to keep on good terms with the Government, we must try and avoid a situation which would compel the Government to lay hands on our revenues. Up to the present I have been successful in this respect.

You understand that by a shortage of ready money for salaries—two must be paid in the next month, Ramazan and Bairam—you may produce chaos and anarchy, and that will not suit the bondholders, nor, I should think, the Powers.

In fact, in striking at the Government through the Debt you are striking at the bondholders, and what can the British Government do to repair the loss to be apprehended by us if we do not advance them money in drablets? The money is after all their own money—revenue which we pay them by anticipation.

If, then, I am to go back on my word I must justify my action towards the Government, the Council, and my colleagues. The position is different, and I should be glad to hear from you in forty-eight hours if the Foreign Office objection applies to the present operation, in which case I must consult my colleagues.

Perhaps after all the Foreign Office instructions to you do not apply to the present ordinary and current operation.

As I have stated, we have always kept politics out of our Council. We are not a bank; we are an international body and an official administration controlling Turkish revenues, and it is in the interests of the bondholders that we should be on the most friendly terms with the Government.

Yours very truly,

ADAM BLOCK

[35878.

No. 51.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 685.)

Constantinople, July 30, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a collective note from the representatives of the Powers at Rodosto, reporting on the massacres of Christians by the Ottoman troops

I have, &c.

CHARLES M MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 51

Statement by Consuls of Six Great Powers at Rodosto.

FAISANT suite aux exposés déjà communiqués par les représentants des Grandes Puissances en cette localité concernant la situation, vu les faits graves qui ont eu lieu ici et plus particulièrement dans l'intérieur, et qui malheureusement continueront encore sans qu'aucune mesure efficace soit prise de la part de qui de droit pour les éviter, lesdits représentants se sont réunis ce jour, sous la présidence du doyen du corps consulaire, pour adresser collectivement à leurs Ambassades respectives la note suivante:—

"A la suite de la reoccupation de la côte de la Marmara par l'armée ottomane, qui a avancé dans l'intérieur, ayant comme point de départ Rodosto, où débarquèrent des volontaires protégés par un torpilleur et un garde-côte; ayant pris possession de la ville ceux-ci se mirent à attaquer à main armée dans la ville et dans les champs les Arméniens et Grecs qui soi-disant étaient notés pour avoir servi ou collaboré avec les Bulgares pendant leur occupation provisoire.

"A ce mouvement avant pris part [illegible] les villages turcs les environnant aux villages chrétiens.

"On évalue à quatre-vingt-dix-huit les portes des Arméniens à Rodosto et dans les champs et trente-neuf celles des Grecs, qui sont tombés les victimes de l'insurrection, des deux premiers jours.

"D'un autre côté, l'armée de Gallipoli et de Boulair, composée du IVe et V^e^ corps d'armée, comprenant 35,000 hommes, sous le commandement de Mehmet Ali Pacha, avançait dans l'intérieur en pillant, incendiant, détruisant tous les villages rencontrés sur leur passage et massacrant les habitants, même les femmes et les enfants après les avoir molestés et violés. Rien ne fut respecté. Les rapports de l'intérieur dépeignent la situation, comme très alarmante, la preuve en est que d'ici les communautés grecques et arméniennes ouvrent des recherches pour faire expédier d'urgence des vivres et des provisions à des milliers des gens sans abri, privés de moyens d'existence, restant aussi sans défense et n'ayant aucune protection. On nous certifie que les villageois furent poursuivis même dans les forêts, où ils subirent les plus affreuses mutilations.

"Son Excellence le Ministre de l'Intérieur, Talaat Bey, est arrivé ici, et a séjourné pendant quelques heures pour avoir des renseignements sur la situation, il est reparti pour Constantinople. Nous lui avons rendu visite pour le prier de donner des ordres sévères et que des mesures efficaces soient prises pour éviter de nouveaux désordres et ramener la tranquilité. Lui-même a désigné une commission d'enquête composée du Mufti de Rodosto, de deux membres turcs, du représentant de l'évêque grec et d'un membre de la communauté orthodoxe, du vicaire du Patriarcat arménien se trouvant ici par suite de ces incidents et d'un membre de la communauté arménienne, et qui avait reçu ordre de se rendre dans l'intérieur pour préciser la situation. Les détails communiqués par la commission d'enquête font horreur. Vous avez déjà connaissance par les rapports que nous avons eu l'honneur de vous soumettre.

En premier lieu, le mufti et les membres turcs n'ont voulu prendre aucune part dans les contestations faites, s'étant mis à l'écart, et nous sommes informés d'autre part qu'au retour de la commission à Rodosto on a voulu influencer les membres chrétiens de ne pas rapporter la vérité, pour ne pas compromettre le Gouvernement, et par ce moyen les autorités de Malgara et de Hairobol ont forcé par la baïonnette aux notables et aux prêtres de certifier que ce sont les Bulgares qui ont causé tous les ravages et massacres. On rapporte que le Caïmacan de Hairobol maltraite particulièrement les chrétiens depuis qu'il est réintégré à son poste, et que le Mufti de Hairobol qui avait déployé

honorablement toute son energie et efforts pour épargner la population des maltraitements bulgares, et arrêter en même temps toute action de l'année ottomane contre la population vient d'être amené ici sous escorte afin de ne pas être un obstacle aux ordres supérieurs.

"D'après nos informations, toutes sortes d'horreurs se commettent journellement dans tout l'intérieur, sans que les autorités se soucient de rien. Il nous revient que tous les documents que les autorités se sont munies pour éliminer les responsabilités du Gouvernement dans tous ces méfaits ont été arrachés par la force aux maires des villages, aux notables et aux prêtres.

"Une commission internationale devrait être déléguée sur les lieux pour se certifier du moins par les témoignages des survivants sur les horreurs dont furent victimes ces malheureuses populations, qui sont épuisées moralement et financièrement par cette guerre interminable, et la cause en est que tous les deux belligérants ont entrepris cette guerre à charge des populations, qui furent dépouillées de tous leurs biens. Car, d'un côté, les oppressions et maltraitements qu'elles ont endurés par les Bulgares les avaient désespérées, et les atrocités de l'armée ottomane les ont exterminées totalement, il ne leur reste plus même le moindre moyen de subsistance.

"Les moyens de transport manquent pour envoyer les premiers secours à l'intérieur, car momentanément tous les chariots et bétail sont requisitionnés pour les besoins des transports militaires. Le Gouvernement aurait l'obligation [illegible] fournir les vivres et les moyens de transport pour venir en aide aux survivants, qui mourront de faim si des secours urgents ne leur sont envoyés. De tous côtés on demande des secours, et nous venons invoquer aussi l'appui des Gouvernements des Grandes Puissances pour sauver ces populations de la ruine.

"Nous formulons l'opinion que tous ces événements de revendication et de destruction sont préméditès, et le Gouvernement fait préparer le terrain pour l'installation des émigrants musulmans retournant d'Anatolie, afin de faire diminuer ou faire disparaître l'élément chrétien dans tout l'hinterland.

"Le Gouverneur, auquel nous avons fait part collectivement nos appréhensions sur un mouvement prémédité contre la population chrétienne [illegible] qui circulent avec persistence que des armes ont été distribuées aux musulmans des ces derniers jours, nous a assurés que rien de tout cela n'existe, et que rien ne pourra se passer, des mesures sévères ont été prises.

"Pourtant la population, qui a eu connaissance des dispositions que les autorités musulmanes lui prennent à leur égard par une attaque prochaine, commence à s'agiter et à désespérer, étant sous l'impression que tout ce qui est arrivé, et arrive à l'intérieur, où rien ne fut épargné, aucune mesure n'a été prise pour empêcher ces carnages.

"N'ayant aucune confiance dans les assurances de notre Gouverneur, puisque rien n'a été fait pour améliorer la situation, nous croyons qu'il est d'urgence à notre avis:—

"1. L'idée d'incendies, pillages et massacres dans Rodosto n'étant pas exclus, et craignant pour la vie de nos sujets et les grands intérêts des étrangers, qui pourraient être gravement compromis. Considérons de notre devoir de vous en informer, pour que des mesures que vous jugerez nécessaires soient prises pour leur sauvegarde.

"2. Qu'une commission internationale d'enquête soit envoyée pour constater ce qui a été fait contrairement aux démarches du Gouvernement turc qui veut détourner la vérité.

"Cette commission d'enquête aurait un très grand effet, tant sur les autorités, les Turcs et sur les populations éprouvées.

"Il ramènerait les premiers à leur devoir, maîtriserait l'ardeur des furieux, et donnerait l'espoir et le courage à ces malheureuses et innocentes victimes de rentrer dans leurs ruines fumantes ou dans leur chaumières complètement dépouillées."

L'Acting Vice-Consul britannique,
J. W. STREATER.
Le Vice-Consul Impérial de Russie.
Le Vice-Consul Impérial d'Allemagne, Doyen et Agent consulaire Impérial et Royal d'Autriche Hongrie
L'Agent consulaire d'Italie.
L'Agent consulaire de France.

Rodosto, le 28 juillet, 1913.

[35880] No. 52

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 687)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 1, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir reporting on elimination of Bulgarian religious and educational system and the abolition of Greek schools.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 52.

Vice-Consul Greig to Mr. Marling.

(No. 45. Confidential.)

Sir, *Monastir, July 22, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the expulsion of the Exarchist Metropolitan of Monastir and the Archbishop of Ochrida and Struga, which was reported in my immediately preceding despatch, has been followed by a systematic elimination of the Bulgarian religious and educational system. The priests have been required to renounce the Exarch and acknowledge the Archbishop of Belgrade as head of the "autocephalous" church of Servia.

The schoolmasters and some of the notables have been required to declare that they will voluntarily accept allegiance to Servia. The alternative to compliance is a threat of expulsion, coupled with the fact that persons expelled will be despatched [illegible] Greek sphere where they would be likely to meet with scanty consideration.*

A [illegible] was accepted and [illegible] examples seem to have been generally followed in the villages. The only instances of refusal hitherto reported are in the case of the village priests of Dihovo and Tsapori.

Most of the schoolmasters are withholding compliance. Their position differs from that of the priests in that consent would debar them from further employment by Bulgarian authorities in the event of permanent employment under the Serbs. The latter have given to understand that posts will be found for them, but new conditions and [illegible] of the Servian tongue would speedily make their position untenable in Servian schools.

The priests, on the other hand, will be better paid than hitherto, and compliance will involve no spiritual hardship. Under the Archbishop of Belgrade the language of their services will be the Old Slavonic used by the Exarchists, and in both churches doctrine and ritual are the same. To most of them priesthood has been a mere means to propaganda, and propaganda to livelihood.

Personal losses, which [illegible] against [illegible] their churches, are loved of in the abstract. In the absence of agitation they may be expected generally to accept the situation without demur.

Amongst the priests, schoolmasters, and notables there are no doubt a few to whom the forswearing of the national tradition would be a very genuine grievance.

There has been no interference as yet with the Greek church system. But the Greek schools are to be done away with, and the teaching staff has been informed that their services will not again be required.

In the case of the Vlachs, neither schools nor churches have been interfered with. My Roumanian colleague believes that his Government will energetically uphold them.

I learn that Greek is now the only language tolerated in the churches in the Greek sphere.

M. Venizelos, who recently passed through Monastir on his way to and from Uskub, gave certain leading members of the Greek community to understand that the

* Four schoolmasters of Monastir have applied to this vice-consulate with a view to the protection of their lives in the event of their being expelled into the Greek sphere. The Prefect, with whom I have unofficially conversed on the subject, assures me that their removal is to be postponed till the end of the war. I am of opinion that their lives would be in danger if they were expelled into Greek territory.

annexation of this town to Servia is practically certain. The Greeks are as hostile as ever to this prospect, and miss no opportunity of showing their aversion to Servian rule. Local friction is enhanced by military rivalry between the allies. The Serbs are bitterly complaining that the Greeks, after occupying a number of fertile districts in their own interests, are contributing grudgingly to the more general success of the campaign.

I have, &c.
C. A. GREIG

[35881] No. 53.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 688)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 1, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir reporting on Bulgarian bands in Servian and Greek sphere, death of Voivod Tshakalaroff, near Florina, and the discovery of bombs on the railway.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 53.

Vice-Consul Greig to Mr. Marling.

(No. 46. Confidential.)

Sir, *Monastir, July 22, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that most of the Bulgarians arrested in this district on the outbreak of war have been released after declaring their willingness to swear allegiance to Servia. A few are still in prison, probably because they have refused to make such a declaration.

The [illegible] which crossed the Vardar and entered this district during the autumn Bulgarian successes have since been [illegible]. Servian authorities state that most of these have dispersed and that their members are reduced to a precarious existence in the hills west of this town. In a recent encounter near Perlepe [illegible] were killed and three captured. The prisoners state that six bands, comprising 110 men in all, still exist in the Perlepe and Mariovo districts, under the leadership of Milan Matof, who before the outbreak of the Balkan war was inspector of Bulgarian bands in this part of Macedonia. Another well-known leader, Petré Tennoff [illegible] who was recently in Albania, is believed to have joined him.

In the Greek sphere there have been encounters to the south-east of Florina between patrols and a strong Bulgarian band, estimated at seventy men, which is said to include some soldiers under the Voivode Tshakalaroff, resulting in the scattering of the band and the death of its chief, whose head is reported to have been exposed to public view at Florina. Seven members of the band are known to have been killed and nine captured. One of the killed is described as an officer named Popof. According to Greek official accounts the losses were greater.

The probable purpose of the band was to reach Castoria, where Tshakalaroff had great influence, in the hope of provoking a rising of the local population, which is strongly Bulgarophil.

On the 16th instant two bombs were found on the railway at Pateli (on the western shore of Lake Ostrovo). It is supposed that they were intended to wreck the train conveying M. Venizelos to Monastir. The Greeks have since destroyed seven houses belonging to suspected Bulgars near Pateli and have made wholesale arrests in the neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
C. A. GREIG.

[35882] No. 54.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 689.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 1, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir reporting on projected Serbo-Greek frontiers, a scheme for Servian outlet on the Ægean.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 54.

Vice-Consul Greig to Mr Marling.

(No. 47 Confidential.)

Sir, *Monastir, July 23, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency the following proposed outlines of a partition of territory in Macedonia and Thrace, which, I am informed, was discussed and approved at the recent meeting of the Greek and Servian Premiers —

(*a*) *Serbo-Greek frontier west of the Vardar.*

To be roughly as described in my despatch No. 39 of the 23rd June.

(*b*.) *Serbo-Greek frontier east of the Vardar*

To start from a point between Ghevgheli and Gumenjé, and run as follows :—

South of Doiran, along the Belesh Planina watershed; along the crest of the Chungel Dagh (immediately north of Demir-Hissar), north of Vrounds and south of Zernovo; along the Mesta Karasou to the Ægean.

It is understood that Servia aspires to all the region between the line indicated and the old Bulgarian frontier, and that her extreme eastern limit would be so arranged as to include Port Lagos in her territory

I have, &c
C. A. GREIG

[35883] No. 55.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

No. 690.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 1, 1913*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's acting consul-general at Salonica, reporting on massacres committed by the Bulgarians in various parts

I have, &c.
CHARLES M MARLING

Enclosure in No. 55.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Mr. Marling.

(No. 73. Confidential.)

Sir, *Salonica, July 25, 1913.*

SINCE the outbreak of fresh hostilities in the Balkans, reports of atrocities committed by Bulgarians on Greeks and Moslems have been arriving daily. It was difficult at the time of the arrival of these reports to control their authenticity, but, now that some days have elapsed since they were perpetrated, and that witnesses from various places in which atrocities were committed have been able to reach Salonica, one has been able to form some just idea of the extent to which atrocities have taken place.

With every desire to be just to the Bulgarians, and taking into consideration any provocation, real or imaginary, that they may have received, there are still many cases of atrocities in which no excuse can be found for the manner in which they were perpetrated and for the motives which inspired their execution. Atrocities of this kind cannot be paralleled by any act of the Greeks or of the Servians, and leave no doubt in the minds of impartial observers that in the matter of cruel and wanton slaughtering the Bulgarian is callous to a degree that Greeks and Servians cannot approach.

If we look into the history of the months preceding the outbreak of the new Balkan war, we find systematic persecution of Greeks and Servians by Bulgarians, and of Bulgarians by Greeks and Servians. Both sides suppressed newspapers, Bulgarians beat Greeks, and Greeks and Servians imprisoned Bulgars and deported them

When the war broke out through Bulgaria's attack on her allies feelings of hatred had already been generated between the two sides. On the morrow of the outbreak of war the Greeks began to arrest Bulgarian civilians and others in the streets of Salonica and to search Bulgarian houses for arms. In the course of these proceedings some five or six unarmed Bulgarian civilians were killed, without cause, according to the Bulgarians. Subsequently the Bulgarian garrison of Salonica was attacked and captured.

On the same day the Bulgarians were already killing innocent non-combatants at Ghevgheli.

On both sides exaggerated and highly-coloured accounts of the above affairs were circulated; but the Bulgarians went further than the Greeks in their desire to make reprisals.

At Nigrita the correspondents of the "Morning Post" and "Daily Telegraph" assured themselves of the burning of that village by Bulgarians, heard the story of the last survivor, Georgio Vlahos, who, after satisfying a Bulgarian officer's demand for money, was several times bayoneted by Bulgarian soldiers, has wounds being killed, and, petroleum being poured over him, was left to burn in his prison. He succeeded, however, in putting the flames out and escaping. The mayor of the town offered to disinter some 470 corpses of persons massacred by Bulgarians and burnt in the fire, but the correspondents thought this unnecessary.

According, however, to accounts from Bulgarian and other reliable sources, very few people—at the most some thirty or forty—were present in Nigrita during the Bulgarian occupation of the town

Previous to that occupation Nigrita was in Greek hands. When the Bulgarians, carrying out a prearranged plan, began pushing across the River Struma, day by day moving gradually towards Salonica, in order to be in a favourable position near Salonica when the order for the general attack should be given, the Greeks retired from Nigrita and almost the whole population went with them, so that the Bulgarians, on their entry, found the town practically deserted

The Bulgarians pushed on beyond the town, and when hostilities broke out, fighting took place between them and the Greeks near Mavrovo Lake, the Bulgarians being gradually driven back towards Nigrita and beyond it. There was a large number of Bulgarian casualties in the fight, many being killed in the town itself. It was during their retreat that they fired the village and massacred the few inhabitants that were left

It must also be borne in mind that several incidents between Greeks and Bulgars had already taken place at Nigrita during the last five or six months, and that in the last "incident" in the beginning of March, according to Bulgarian and other sources, at least twenty-five—at most eighty—Bulgarian officers and privates quartered in Nigrita were treacherously murdered by the native Greeks of that town.

A desire for revenge, then, may have actuated the Bulgarians in their treatment of Nigrita

At Kukush (Kilkish), a purely Bulgarian town, where a three days' battle between Greeks and Bulgarians took place, the Greeks entered the town after the Bulgarian retreat, in which they were accompanied by the Bulgarian inhabitants of the town, and deliberately burnt the town, destroying practically every building in it. The motive for this is obscure, unless it were to burn out any Bulgarian komitajis that might be in hiding there, or to prevent the natives returning to the town. Some 500 Bulgarian townspeople who had fled for refuge to the French Catholic Mission in Kukush were not molested by the Greeks.

The Superior of the French Mission at Kukush, in a letter communicated to the press, describes the burning of a large number of Moslems in a mosque at Kerkut by

Bulgarians. In his references to this and other crimes the Superior is not, however, referring to events of recent date, but to atrocities committed in November and December last.

At Doiran, Demir Hissar, and Stroumnitsa, as recorded in my despatch No. 69 of the 17th July, some 120 persons were massacred by Bulgarians.

The dragoman of this consulate-general, who has just returned from Serres, estimates the total number of persons massacred and burnt at fifty. Of these, fourteen were bayoneted and killed in the Government offices before the departure of the Bulgarians, four notables were carried off, and the rest were killed in the streets or in their own houses, or burnt or killed at the sack of the town.

On evacuating Serres on Saturday, the 5th July, the Bulgarians fired some 300 shots at the house of an American living in the outskirts of the town, tearing the flag floating over his house.

On the departure of the Bulgarians the Greek Archbishop organised a local militia to keep order in the town. Rifles were found in the Government offices. When on Sunday, the 6th July, the Bulgarians began firing into the town, the local militia replied to the fire, and some fifty Greek antartes having entered the town on the 8th July, made a sortie on to the hill and engaged the Bulgarians on the hills in combat. Exchange of firing between the local militia and the Bulgarians went on till Friday, the 11th July, when the Bulgarians brought up cannon to bombard the town. A general panic and flight of the population followed. The Bulgarians entered the town and burnt it and continued pillaging and killing until driven out by Greek troops. Before the arrival of the Greek troops, they had carried off the Austrian vice-consul and 150 persons who had taken refuge in the consulate, and had only released them, after being several times on the point of killing them, on the payment of some 400*l*. The Italian consular agent was only spared the same experience by a payment of money.

The vice-consul and those with him were carried off by regulars and komitajis. Bulgarian officers whom they met and appealed to declined to interfere.

The Greek quarter of Serres is absolutely destroyed. The Moslem and Jewish quarters have not suffered to any great extent, but there is need of provisions and help for all.

Serres has been visited by the Austrian and Italian consuls-general, and will shortly be visited by a French mission, sent out by the French Government to investigate stories of atrocities at Cavalla, Doxat, Serres, &c.

Summing up, I am convinced that Bulgarians, regulars and others, have killed numbers of Greek and Moslem non-combatants, and that in most cases they killed them slowly and cruelly, and that, whatever their motives, nothing can excuse the fashion in which they have done their victims to death.

Speaking for the Greek army, I am of opinion that, whatever the Macedonian Greek may be capable of, the Hellenic Greeks, that is to say, the bulk of the Greek troops, have not perpetrated, and do not seem by nature capable of perpetrating, crimes such as the Bulgars have committed in this campaign and in the war against the Turks.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN

[35884] No. 56.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 691.)
Sir, *Constantinople, August* 1, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at the Dardanelles reporting on movement of troops.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 56.

Vice-Consul Palmer to Mr. Marling.

(No. 81.)
Sir, *Dardanelles, July* 28, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that one Ottoman hospital has been transferred from here to Malgara.

More big guns have been transferred recently from the Medjidié and Nagara forts to the new works on the Seradjik hills behind this town.

To-day the "Seyar" passed up with 1,000 troops from Beirout for Constantinople.

It is believed here that the Kurdish and Arab troops have been massacring non-Mussulmans in the Keshan district.

An Italian engineer—a certain M. Gianardi Langi—from Keshan left there in fear of his life, but at present I have no confirmation of these accusations, for which he appears to be the sole authority.

Djavid Pasha arrived here to-day on the Russian steamship from Constantinople.

The refugees from Uzun Kupru and Mustapha Pasha are leaving for their homes, and only those from Ipsala remain here besides those from Dedeagatch, Serres, Drama, and Cavalla.

I have, &c.
C. E. S. PALMER.

[35885] No. 57

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 692.)
Sir, *Constantinople, August* 1, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's acting consul-general at Salonica reporting on the capture of Kresna by the Greeks.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 57.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Mr. Marling.

(No. 72.)
Sir, *Salonica, July* 24, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Greek troops to-day occupied the Kresna defile, where the Bulgarians have been holding them in check for some five or six days. The right wing of the Greek army composed of the 7th division, which, after occupying Serres, [illegible] Nevrocop, [illegible] appears to have come up from Cavalla and Drama to Nevrocop, have taken Dobrinishta and Banska, north-west of Nevrocop. The left wing, moving north from Pechevo, have taken Pancharevo.

The number of casualties is unknown, but 300 are reported wounded at Pechevo, and preparations are being made for the reception of some 3,000 from Kresna and the front.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

[35888] No. 58.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 695.)
Sir, *Constantinople, August* 1, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the acting consul-general at Salonica reporting on Greco-Bulgarian fighting in Pechevo-Kresna Nevrocop region.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 58.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Mr Marling.

(No. 71. Confidential.)

Sir, *Salonica, July 23, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that during the past five days fighting has been going on between Greeks and Bulgarians at the defile of Kresna, in the Struma Valley, between Demir Hissar and Juma-i-Bala, and in the mountainous district to the east and west of the defile.

The 1st division of the Greek army, moving up the carriage road from Demir Hissar, along the Struma River, drove the Bulgarian army before them, continual skirmishes taking place between the Bulgarian rear-guard and the Greek advance posts, until the Bulgarians reached the Kresna defile, where a stand is still being made, the position being very strong.

Simultaneously, the Greek right of one division, moving north from Serres, captured Novrocop, taking eighteen cannon from the Bulgarians, and is now to the north of that town.

The Greek left wing, composed of six divisions, keeping in touch with the Servians, with whom they had united at Radovishta and Strumnitsa, are moving over the Malesh Mountains, north-east from Strumnitsa, have captured Pechevo, and are now reported at Bouskovich, north of that town. The Servian troops with whom the Greeks are in touch, moving east from Kochana, are at Sarevoselo, near the Bulgarian frontier.

The 8th division of the Greek army is at present being sent by sea from Salonica to Cavalla, and it is thought that an advance from Cavalla eastwards towards Saraskeui, Xanthi, Gumuljina and Dedeagatch is being contemplated.

The Greek headquarters have been transferred to Livounovo, a village on the east bank of the Struma River, about 35 miles north-west from Demir Hissar, and midway between that town and the Kresna defile.

M. Panas, former Greek Minister at Sophia, arrived here this morning from Athens, accompanied by his secretary, and is leaving for Musch to open up negotiations for peace.

The tales of atrocities committed in various parts by Bulgarians on the non-combatant population is exciting the press and public opinion to call for the severest possible conditions of peace as regards Bulgaria. Their expulsion from Macedonia and Thrace, and the imposition of "Capitulations" in Bulgaria proper, is demanded.

The tales of atrocities committed on Greeks and others by Bulgarians at Nigrita, Demir Hissar, Serres, and Doxat are amply confirmed by refugees. Innocent and defenceless people have been killed with fiendish cruelty, towns have been wantonly burnt, and all classes of Bulgarians, regulars and komitajis, officers and men, have participated in this orgy of crime.

Distress in Serres is particularly keen. Half of the houses in the town have been burnt, and most of the population are without clothing or shelter. Cholera, too, has made its appearance. This disease also exists at Salonica, but has not yet attained the proportions of an epidemic.

I have, &c.

JAMES MORGAN

[36237] No. 59.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 697.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 1, 1913.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 327 of the 16th July, I have the honour to report that Colonel Fairholme arrived last night.

Colonel de Reuty, the French delegate for the delimitation of the Turco-Bulgarian frontier under the Treaty of London, also arrived by the same boat from Marseilles.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING.

[35889] No. 60.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 698.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 1, 1913.*

IN recent despatches I have had occasion to point out that the fresh Turkish campaign of alleged Bulgarian atrocities in Southern Thrace reposes on no foundation, but served rather as a screen to the Turkish atrocities perpetrated on the Armenian, Bulgarian, and Greek inhabitants of those regions. As reported in my telegram No. 361 of the 25th July, the authorities went so far as to quote in their official telegrams would-be testimony in support of this campaign of His Majesty's consul at Adrianople, who has been absent from his post for over a month. Despite the denial which I had published in the local press, a committee organ in its yesterday's issue again quoted His Britannic Majesty's consul as witness of Bulgarian atrocities.

A number of Greeks, variously estimated from thirty to fifty, were undoubtedly drowned in the river at Adrianople about the time of the Bulgarian departure from and the Turkish entry into that town. Photographs of the corpses have been taken for publication in Europe, in evidence of "Bulgarian atrocities."

Talaat Bey has confidentially sent me a copy of a report (herewith enclosed) in which the incident is related.* The report is written in the overdrawn style which has become customary in this capital of late years. From it it would appear that on the first Turkish approach on the 19th July the Bulgarians began to evacuate the town and to destroy their stores, &c. At the station village of Karagatch the Greeks carried off some stores and were arrested by the Bulgarians, who returned on the 28th July, after the assurances given by the Porte to the Great Powers that Adrianople would not be reoccupied. The anonymous writer of the report states that he overheard the Bulgarian station master at Karagatch give instructions to a Bulgarian gendarme to prepare a massacre of Greeks, that after the following morning (the 29th July) the Turks entered and the Bulgarians left Adrianople, and that on proceeding to the village he found that some forty-two Greeks had been shot and buried in a field. Mention. The inference would be that the Bulgarians had arrested the Greeks for pillage, and, in the hurry of their flight, on the sudden entry of the Turks, had thrown them into the river. The report, however, gives no direct evidence as to how the Greeks came by their fate.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING.

[35914] No. 61

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August [illegible],

(No. 277.)

Sir, *Berlin, August 1, 1913.*

AS I received instructions last year to keep you informed of false statements regarding British policy, &c., which may be circulated in the German Press, I have the honour to report that the "Frankfort Gazette" of the 25th ultimo quoted a statement made by the "Albanische Korrespondenz" a few days before and remarked that as the statement had not been denied it must be held to be correct. The statement in question was that Admiral Burney had been making remarkable attempts to arrange for the nomination of an English Governor of Northern Albania. The admiral was stated to have addressed the following letter to the Albanian tribes of Schala and Schoschui: "His Excellency the English admiral has received the petition of Kol Schala, asking for the nomination of an English Governor to direct your national affairs. This Governor will be appointed as soon as the mounted gendarmerie are organised."

On the receipt of this letter, according to the Scutari correspondent of the "Albanische Korrespondenz," there was a solemn meeting of the chiefs of the six bajraks of the tribe of Dukadschin (Schala, Schoschi, Plani, Kiri, Gjani, and Toplana).

* Not printed.

and of the chiefs of the tribes of Nikaj, Merturi, and Duschmani, who proceeded to send the following reply to Admiral Burney :—

"In answer to your letter which has been received, Prel Marku, Bajraktar of Schala, and Gjelosch Kolo, Bajraktar of Schoschi, have the honour to inform you, in the names of the chiefs of Dukadschin, Nikaj, Merturi, and Duschmani, that no person of the name of Kol Schala exists in these districts, and that no member of these tribes has been empowered to ask for an English Governor for them. We therefore inform your Excellency, first, that as soon as we discover the identity of the Kol Schala in question, we shall, in accordance with our law, treat him as guilty of treason, burn his house down, banish him from our tribe, and confiscate his goods; and second, that we could not recognise an Englishman or any other foreigner as Governor until the independence of Albania has been recognised, its boundaries fixed on grounds of ethnology and our sovereign proclaimed. If a Governor is to be appointed for Dukadschin, we demand that he shall be of Albanian nationality. If he was to be a foreigner, he would have to be presented to us by the Governments of Austria-Hungary, Italy, and their ally, because we have complete confidence in these States in regard to the integrity and independence of Albania."

I have, &c.
GRANVILLE

[36010] No. 62.

Mr. Howard to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 63.)
Sir,

Stockholm, August 2, 1913.

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 4 and 5 of the 30th ultimo, respecting the proposal to address a request to the Swedish Government for officers to organise the Albanian gendarmerie, and respecting the private communication made to you by the Swedish Minister in London stating that the Swedish Government could not entertain such a proposal, I have the honour to inform you that, as reported in my telegram No. 5 of yesterday, I duly informed the Ministers of France, Austria, Germany, Italy, and Russia of the contents of your above mentioned telegrams. The legations of Russia, Austria, and Germany had as yet received no instructions on the subject.

The Swedish Press, which had previously published articles showing that Sweden felt flattered at being again chosen to provide officers to organise the gendarmerie in a south-eastern country, to-day publish what is no doubt a communiqué from the Government to the effect that the Government had been unable to accede to the desire of the Powers respecting the Albanian gendarmerie, for the reasons submitted to you by the Swedish Minister, and that the latter Government would now probably be approached with a view to obtaining the necessary officers for Albania.

I have, &c.
LSME HOWARD.

[35975] No. 63.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 412.)
Sir,

Paris, August 2, 1913.

THE "Temps" of to-night contains an article on the present state of the negotiations between the Great Powers for settling the questions at issue in the Balkans in which special attention is called to the Mediterranean policy of the Triple Alliance. The article begins by recalling to memory that the Conference of London has taken a series of decisions, some of which were unfavourable to the Balkan States, such as the creation of an autonomous Albania, the exclusion of Servia from the Adriatic, and of Greece from part of Epirus. On the other hand, the decisions in favour of the late allies were less numerous, and consisted of the assignment of Adrianople and the islands to Bulgaria and Greece respectively. Italy, the article continues, is now, however, directing her efforts against Greece. She refuses to give

up the islands in her occupation, except under certain conditions, to Turkey, and opposes the claims of Greece to Cavalla. Italy and Austria are now showing great zeal in furthering the interests of Bulgaria, and appear to be working together for the weakening of Greece, having already succeeded in obtaining that of Servia. Germany approves the acquisition of Cavalla by Greece, but supports the anti-Greek policy of Italy by acquiescing in the retention by the latter of the islands for the present with a view to their being definitely restored to Turkey in return for the evacuation of Adrianople. Whether it is a question of Cavalla or the islands, of Albania or Scutari, the problem remains the same, namely, that of the Mediterranean, which the Powers of the Triple Alliance are dealing with by mutual agreement. For three years the Triple Alliance have had no Mediterranean policy. They have one now, and the Triple *Entente* should take note of the fact and decide what should be done.

A copy of the article in question is transmitted herewith.*

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador)
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE

[35978] No. 64

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 413.)
Sir,

Paris, August 2, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs informing me, in reply to the communication which Mr. Carnegie addressed to him under the instructions contained in your despatch No. 349 of the 22nd ultimo, that the French Government agree in your view that the representatives at Athens of Great Britain, France, and Russia should be instructed to make a formal and identic protest against the high-handed action of the Greek authorities in Samos in demanding the payment to them of sums due by the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt to the Government of the principality.

M. Pichon informs me that the French Government are willing to join in a step of this nature, provided that the Russian Government adopt a similar attitude, and asks that he may be informed, in anticipation of the Russian Government's assent, of the terms in which it is proposed to couch the protest to be handed to M. Coromilas by the three representatives.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

Enclosure in No. 64

M. Pichon to Sir F. Bertie

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 31 juillet, 1913.

VOTRE Excellence a bien voulu appeler l'attention de mon Département, le 26 de ce mois, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, sur la situation nouvelle que vient de créer à Samos le Gouvernement provisoire de l'île en déclarant nulle et non avenue la convention passée avec la Dette publique ottomane pour l'affermage des salines. Il a paru à Sir Edward Grey que la proposition que nous avions formulée tendant à la mise sous séquestre de la somme représentant l'arriéré du fermage des salines ne répondait plus aux exigences de la situation depuis l'envoi par les autorités helléniques à l'agent local de la Dette publique à Samos de la sommation visée dans la lettre de votre Excellence. En conséquence, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique propose que les trois Puissances intéressées adressent au Cabinet d'Athènes une protestation conçue en termes identiques, en exposant que cette démarche est motivée par la mesure arbitraire prise par les autorités helléniques à Samos.

Je m'empresse de faire connaître à votre Excellence que le Gouvernement de la république partage à ce sujet la manière de voir du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté

* Not printed.

britannique et qu'il est disposé à s'associer à une démarche de cette sorte à Athènes, si le Gouvernement Impérial russe adopte une attitude analogue. En prévision de l'assentiment donné par ce Gouvernement à cette procédure, je serais très obligé à votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire part de la manière de voir du Foreign Office sur les termes dans lesquelles devrait être conçue la protestation identique que les Ministres de France, d'Angleterre et de Russie auraient à remettre à M. Coromilas.

Veuillez, &c.

(Pour le Ministre et par autorisation),

PALÉOLOGUE.

[35918] No. 65.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 281 Confidential.)

Sir, *Berlin, August 2, 1913.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 230 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I took the opportunity afforded me by your instructions to ascertain the views of the German Government regarding the suggestion of Belgian officials by Turkey, to which Herr von Jagow has referred, and I then read to him the substance of your telegram No. 1 Cabinet of yesterday's date. He said that you could consider yourself sealed by that declaration to support any proposal that might be made to send an international conference at Paris. At the same time his Excellency told you that you agreed with him that it was premature to talk of a conference at this moment, and that you had expressed the same views in an informal conversation with the French and Russian Ambassadors in London.

Herr von Jagow said he entirely understood and appreciated your position, and repeated his assurance, which I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 264, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, that he himself would be most unwilling to refuse French invitation if made. It was not Paris or the French he objected to—he looked upon M. Pichon as a very sober statesman, who would probably preside admirably over a conference—but it was the diplomatic personnel there that he was afraid of. Count Berchtold, he said, had raised the objection that it would not look well if all the conferences took place in the capitals of the Triple *Entente*—the Ambassadors' réunion in London, the Silistria Conference at St. Petersburgh, and the financial conference at Paris—but he himself was not so sensitive ("angstlich"), and would not raise any objections on that score. I said that I believed someone—I thought it better not to quote Count Benckendorff—had suggested The Hague as a possible meeting place. Herr von Jagow merely remarked that M. Isvolsky might easily be appointed to represent Russia there. Herr von Jagow said he believed the French Government themselves were not anxious to have a conference at Paris, at least he had had a long conversation with M. Cambon on the subject, and the latter had expressed complete concurrence with his views. Herr von Jagow felt that he was in a strong position to express his objections to a conference, as nothing would induce him to have one in Berlin.

However, Herr von Jagow said that all that was really by the way, and asked me to impress upon you again that he, and the Imperial Government, had the strongest objections to a conference being held anywhere. He pointed to the example of Albania, on which everyone was more or less agreed in principle, and the decisions on which might, therefore, have been expected to be taken in a very short time; and yet every little point had been discussed and fought for, and after months of labour the question was not completely settled even now. If there was a conference on the Balkan settlement, every milestone would be disputed between Austria and Russia, and the conference would last for years, if it did not break up with disastrous results.

I have, &c.

GRANVILLE.

[36150] No. 66.

Hakki Pasha to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London,

Your Excellency, *August 2, 1913.*

THE relations I had the honour to have with your Excellency proved to me that you are above the religious or racial prejudices unfortunately so repanded in Europe, and that your perfectly loyal and righteous nature will not see with a favourable eye any discrimination, whomever may be subject to it. I know, as your Excellency so frankly declared in Parliament, that the relations between States are not based on logic or international law, but I am also sure that logic and international law in the mouth of His Britannic Majesty's Foreign Secretary will have an effect which cannot be experienced by any scholar or lawyer. Being moved by these convictions, I dare to submit to your Excellency's attention, in a thoroughly private and personal way, some points in favour of the Turkish plight. I really fear that an undue humiliation of Turkey in the present circumstances will have more bad results than generally thought for.

I am, &c.

I. HAKKI.

Enclosure in No. 66.

Memorandum.

I.—*Historical Arguments.*

1. NOT only Adrianople but the whole sanjaks of Dedeagatch and Gumuldjina were not comprised in the limits of the projected province of Bulgaria, as determined by the Conference of Constantinople of 1877.

2. The Treaty of San Stefano, obviously made with the idea of creating the greatest Bulgarian State, and of assuring to the Bulgarian race the absolute hegemony on the other Balkan people, excluded the whole province of Adrianople from the limits of the now projected Bulgaria.

3. Since the Treaty of Berlin there has been no question of Thrace, and this part of European Turkey was continuously left out of all the negotiations concerning reforms in Macedonia.

4. The allied Balkan Powers did not mention Thrace in the joint note which was the initial cause of the war of 1912, and the demands of reforms put forward by the Great Powers before the allies' interference in the question, regarded solely Macedonia.

5. Even the allies between themselves did not think Thrace would be conquered from Turkey; we know it now by the declarations and revelations of the Servian statesmen. The attribution of Adrianople to Bulgaria broke entirely the equilibrium of the Balkan States and has been one of the determining factors of the present war.

II.—*Ethnological Arguments.*

1. Thrace is more a Mahommedan and Turkish country than anything else, as will be shown by the following figures of the Mahommedan, Greek, and Bulgarian elements in districts beyond the Midia-Enos line. These figures comprise the male population only, based on the last census reports:—

Kazas.	Mahommedan.	Greek	Bulgarian.
Adrianople	29,385	18,555	4,827
Ortakeuy	18,308	9,436	2,033
Ergene	10,422	10,059	3,447
Moutala Pacha	6,188	2,948	1,261
Hapsasa	5,528	4,378	468
Dimotska	4,859	10,427	718
Kardja-Ali	22,599	53	3
Total for sanjak of Adrianople	97,109	55,846	18,757
* Tchorlou	7,462	4,975	893
* Hafsabo	11,834	2,375	520
* Maugara	2,908	7,402	1,499
Total for part of sanjak of Rodosto	20,204	14,452	2,712
Dedeagatch	5,602	3,971	5,504
* Enos	2,302	2,145	152
Sofoulou	15,534	8,393	1,429
Total for sanjak of Dedeagatch	23,438	14,509	7,185
Kirk-Kilisse	14,831	12,7[illegible]	7,334
Antapolou	9[illegible]	3,424	1,906
* Baba-Eski	5,955	5,403	485
Tirnova	225	31	4,[illegible]25
* [illegible] Bourgas	7,5[illegible]2	4,048	380
* Midia	492	3,881	229
* Vize	[illegible],[illegible]2[illegible]	8,234	1,[illegible]38
Total for sanjak of Kirk-Kilisse	41,2[illegible]	35,752	14,927
[illegible]mmaglan	3[illegible],[illegible]46	5,243	5,061
Eskitchi	16,[illegible]68	6,213	1,645
Aia-Tchelebi	12,[illegible]88	801	6,[illegible]3
Ichtiman	21,529	[illegible]	82
Dariaca	11,582	[illegible]	378
Sultan-Zuri	24,284	72	413
Total for sanjak of Ouzoudjovo	122,677	11,329	14,568

N.B.—The kazas marked * are probably partly included in the Midia-Enos line.

2. The above figures show that ethnographically no one but the Mahommedans can have any claim on Thrace. (The case is, of course, the same for the sanjak of Drama, where the figures are: 65,330 Mahommedans, 18,522 Greeks, and only 3,026 Bulgarians.)

III.—*Moral Arguments.*

1. If, as some Powers lay in principle, the defeated Bulgarians must not be too much humiliated, it seems that the same principle may be applied to Turkey, which though previously defeated, stands to-day in a better position, having contest with Bulgaria alone, being rather on sympathetic terms with the other Balkan people, and commanding the situation in Thrace with an army reorganised, reposed, and ready to fight in better conditions than last year.

2. Any useless humiliation of Turkey by the Powers will exasperate the Mahommedan feelings everywhere and give them the idea that Turkey is deprived of the rights recognised to the other Balkan States because they are a Mahommedan State.

3. Any further humiliation of Turkey will exasperate Ottoman opinion and the army, and may cause the gravest events prejudicial to all the interests involved in Turkey.

4. Any support given to the Turkish Government in the actual crisis will enforce and strengthen it and facilitate the realisation of the reforms and improvements, not only in the interests of Turkey, but of all the European interest involved in it.

5. Turkey is a country open to European trade, influence, and culture. Any country lost by Turkey is lost in the same time to European trade, influence, schools, and missions. It is easy to verify this fact.

IV.—*As to the Powers' Position.*

1. It is only a Bulgarian idea to say that Europe's honour is engaged in Adrianople being ceded to Bulgaria. The real principle patronised by the Powers before the Balkan war was that of the *statu quo*. Europe left it because it was unable to enforce it by force, and so departed under new circumstances of the initial principle. The circumstances having partly restored the *statu quo*, the first and essentially genuine idea of the Powers is realised and it is not fair for the Powers to change their mind now and to use force for the destruction of their primary plans.

2. The preliminaries of peace, which are not ratified with Bulgaria, cannot be considered as a solemn and definite treaty. Of course Bulgaria and the other States tore all the solemn and binding treaties and arrangements, and Europe tolerated it. Turkey could declare war to Bulgaria and nobody would have anything to say. Is Turkey to be punished for having abstained to create new disturbances by officially declaring war?

3. The preliminaries ceded territories not to Bulgaria alone, but to the four allies. That was an association which no more exists.

4. The Silistria arbitration at St. Petersburgh was also a very solemn international decision. It was accepted by Roumania in full liberty of mind and in thoroughly different conditions of the Turkish acceptance of the preliminaries. It took not long from Roumania, but, on the contrary, gave her new territory in addition, and in alteration of another very solemn treaty, that of Berlin. Notwithstanding all these circumstances it is found perfectly legitimate that Roumania should get new territorial advantages by a military promenade through defenceless Bulgaria. Why should Turkey be taxed of the crime of *lèse-Puissances* when endeavouring to retake a small part of her losses, a part where Bulgarians [illegible] and perpetrated [illegible] awful things on the Mahommedan, and even Greek population and worship places? Any other Power in the place of Turkey would have done the same, and if the Powers had not gone to Adrianople probably the Greek army would [illegible] all the [illegible] thus a more intricate question.

5. The so-called principle that a Mahommedan State must never recover territory lost to the benefit of Christian people is a shame for those who think so in the 20th century. The only excuse of such a rule may be found in its relation to merely Christian lands when they are definitely lost to Ottoman rule. But with the worst feelings towards Turkey it cannot be extended to a Mahommedan territory lost for a very short time and recovered again during changing and unsettled events. Europe abandoned the idea of the *statu quo* by the force of *de facto* arguments; exactly similar arguments must now induce Europe to stand by this principle in the case of Adrianople.

[35919] No. 67.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 282.)

Sir, *Berlin, August 3, 1913.*

IN the course of my conversation with Herr von Jagow yesterday, I told his Excellency that His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had reported that Osman Nizami Pasha's proposed visit to London, Paris, and Berlin has been abandoned. Herr von Jagow expressed surprise, and asked if I knew why the visit had been given up.

I also informed his Excellency of your telegram No. 292 of the 1st instant, in which you stated your intention to suggest that the Netherlands Government should be applied to for officers for the Albanian gendarmerie; that if they refused, Denmark should be asked, and, failing that, Switzerland. Herr von Jagow said he entirely approved, and did not mind which of the neutral smaller Powers eventually provided the officers required.

Herr von Jagow left Berlin last night for a fortnight's holiday.

The "North German Gazette" of this morning publishes the following semi-official paragraph regarding the occupation of Adrianople by Turkey

"Any sharp crisis has been avoided in the question of the future of Adrianople. It may be regarded as natural that the feelings of the Turkish army and the patriotism of the Ottoman people should press for the retention of that much-fought-for city But far-seeing Turkish statesmen do not shrink the duty of carefully considering whether it is to the lasting interest of their country to make the relations of the Porte with the Great Powers, as well as with Bulgaria, dependent on the possession of Adrianople, or whether Turkey's need for a more strategically favourable frontier could not be satisfied by negotiations with the Powers on the basis of the Treaty of London. The permanent occupation of Adrianople would entail a constant danger of a new war with Bulgaria, who by no means despairs of her future, and it would be an obstacle to those good neighbourly relations which are desired by both Governments. It would oblige Turkey to make unceasing military exertions in Thrace, and to use troops and money for that purpose which it could apply to other tasks with more value for its future. This is the view of true friends of Turkey, and is shared by Turkish patriots who look past present circumstances, and fix their eye on the interior consolidation of their country."

I am, &c.
GRANVILLE.

[36148] No. 68.

Memorandum communicated by M. Madjarof, August 5.

THE Turkish troops and irregulars, assisted by Greek bands, are burning all the villages and towns which they have occupied. In the village of Selioglou, district of Kirk Kilisse, the Turkish infantry and cavalry have committed terrible excesses on the local population. Most of the girls and young women have been violated.

The Bulgarian authorities in Harmanli report the following acts of destruction and pillage committed by the Turkish troops in the district of Harmanli

In the village of Lubimetz 800 houses were burned and the greater part of the crops destroyed, three inhabitants being murdered; in the village of Siva-Reka 150 houses were burned, six inhabitants murdered, and the village cattle carried off; the village of Lozan has been entirely destroyed, together with the greater part of the crops; in the village of Belitza 65 houses and 6 shops have been burned; in the village of Basser 110 houses have been burned, together with the greater part of the crops, the cattle of the village of Teberna-Mogila has been carried off; in the village of Monkovo 10 houses have been burned; in the village of Izvorovo 13; and in the village of Orelovo 16.

2 On the eve of the armistice Servian troops invaded the district of Trn, and the department of Viddin, where they sacked many villages, killed many of the inhabitants, and violated the women, some of whom have been carried off to Servia. A detachment of the Servian cavalry is committing daily excesses in the country between Lom and Ferdinandovo.

The bombardment of Viddin was continued after the armistice had become operative. Half of the town has been destroyed, 200 persons being killed and 600 wounded, besides the casualties among the Bulgarian troops.

In the neighbourhood of Bossilegrad the Bulgarian officer who was sent to arrange the details of the armistice was told by the Servian colonel that he had no orders to interrupt hostilities. While they were negotiating a Servian regiment advanced in the direction of Prossenik and Ougrinov-Kamak. The statement of the Servian colonel that he had no orders to stop fighting is disproved by the fact that the two Servian officers who first met the Bulgarian "parlementaire" informed him that instructions to interrupt hostilities had reached them some hours before the interview A similar incident has occurred at Dastchen Kladenetz, in the district of Trn.

Bulgarian Legation, London, August 4, 1913.

[36203] No. 69.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 5.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 5, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, two copies of a telegram, dated the 4th August, from Vice-Admiral Burney

I am, &c.
W GRAHAM GREENE

Enclosure in No. 69

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic) P. *August 4, 1913*

NO flag at present exists for Albanian craft at sea. For this reason I would suggest the necessity of a recognised flag for Albania as soon as this can be arranged.

After consultation with the other members of the Commission, who are telegraphing to their Governments in the same sense, I would recommend the general official recognition of the flag at present popularly recognised as Albanian, i.e., a red field with black eagle[s].

[35945] No. 70.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 383. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 4, 1913*

THE German Ambassador is airing the opinion in Turkish official circles that Turkey should agree to evacuate Adrianople provided that the Enos-Midia line is modified in their favour, that Balkan States abandon claim to war indemnity, that arrangement be concluded for the custody, &c., of mosques at Adrianople, and that the Powers give their consent in the question of the tenetin and 4 per cent customs duties. This suggestion amounts to encouragement of Turkey to turn her recent action to account; it is scarcely a solution that would save the prestige of the Great Powers, while from the point of view of British interests it seems impossible to give up lever of 4 per cent. customs dues, which we are using for other purposes.

The Russian Ambassador seems half disposed to fall in with the suggestion, and thinks that he detects readiness on the part of Turkey to negotiate on some such lines as the above.

[35908] No. 71.

Sir H Baz-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 333. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 4, 1913.*

M. DANEF and his chief adherents, some of late Government and certain prominent generals, including ex-Minister of War, met secretly to-day and decided that something should be done to continue war to the bitter end. This resolution they have made known to the King of the Bulgarians. Their plan, to which I believe some of the members of the Government including Minister for Foreign Affairs are privy, is to settle with Roumania alone and then to fall upon Greeks and Servians immediately on expiration of the armistice. Refugees and Moslem Bulgarians of all ages are being enlisted.

The above policy would be thwarted if Roumania should refuse to sign agreement with Bulgaria until all the belligerents have come to terms.

(Sent to Constantinople, Bucharest, and Athens, viâ Belgrade.)

[36225] No. 72

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey. (Received August 5.)

(No. 334.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 5, 1913.*

THE Bulgarian Government have successfully spread the belief here that the Servian army is crippled by losses and that the Greek army was surrounded and only saved from annihilation by the armistice, which the Bulgarian Government have only consented to prolong for humanitarian reasons.

(Sent to Athens viâ Belgrade, and Bucharest.)

[36226] No. 73.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 335. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 5, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 333 of 4th August.

My Austrian colleague informs me confidentially that Minister for Foreign Affairs asked him yesterday to use all his influence with his Government to persuade Roumanian Government to sign immediate agreement with Bulgaria. Austrian Minister has telegraphed in that sense to Vienna.

Soldiers who have been discharged from the hospitals are now being sent to join their regiments at once, whereas previously they went to their homes.

(Sent to Belgrade and Bucharest.)

[36213] No. 74

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 366.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 5, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 361 of 29th July and my telegram No. 380 of 3rd August.

The Turkish Government reply that they know exactly where their mines are situated at the Dardanelles, Smyrna, &c., but, not knowing where Bulgarian mines may be, they cannot state exactly which ports are safe for navigation.

[36214] No. 75

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 367.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 5, 1913.*

TURKISH Government have published statement that the Bulgarians have massacred 3,000 Turkish prisoners at Stara Zagora.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[36219] No. 76.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey —(Received August 5.)

(No. 368.)
(Telegraphic.) R *Constantinople, August 5, 1913.*

SOPHIA telegram No. 333 of 4th August.

In the event of contingency suggested by Sir H. Bax-Ironside I doubt whether Turkey would remain passive. She would probably come to terms with Bulgaria against Greece and Servia.

(Sent to Sophia, Athens, Bucharest, and Belgrade.)

[36224] No. 77

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 287.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 5, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 572 of 4th August.

I will enquire, but from language held to me and to French Ambassador by Minister for Foreign Affairs I do not think Russian Government have at present any intention of taking action in Armenia. They seem, on the contrary, anxious to avoid having recourse to coercive measures of any kind.

[36091] No. 78.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey —(Received August 5.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 5, 1913.*

SOPHIA telegram No. 333 of 4th August.

There is no chance I think of Roumania making peace with Bulgaria alone.

One of the Bulgarian delegates recently talked of the possibility of detaching Roumania by conceding Dobrudja and thereby ensuring the war against Greece and Servia. His words were reported to the Roumanian Prime Minister, who declared in my presence that Roumania would not sign peace without her co-belligerents.

At yesterday's meeting of the conference the Prime Minister, when announcing that Roumania and Bulgaria were now in agreement, spoke in the same sense.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade *in extenso*.)

[35646] No. 79.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 301.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 5, 1913.*

MR. MARLING'S telegram No. 378 of 1st August: Osman Nizami Pasha's mission.

Inform Government to which you are accredited.

[35659] No. 80.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling

(No. 375.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 5, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 379 of 1st August.

You are authorised to make identic communication in sense of my proposal to the Ambassadors' Conference (see my telegram No. 351 of 26th July) when all the representatives are similarly instructed.

[36495] No. 81

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 376.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 5, 1913.*

ADMIRALTY wish to recall "Medea" from Constantinople, leaving "Black Prince" there.

If necessary another ship could be sent there later.

What are your views?

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* Also to Earl Granville (No. 295).

[35945] No. 82.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling

(No. 377. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 5, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 383 of 4th August.

Generally speaking, I would not oppose a solution somewhat on the lines indicated as a basis for discussion, and subject to the ratification of the treaties just negotiated with Turkey, and to our other conditions as stated to Hakki being accepted.

Our position is that, when these treaties are ratified and conditions accepted, we shall be bound to give consent to increase of customs dues when other Powers do so, and we cannot therefore ourselves make that consent dependent upon evacuation of Adrianople.

[36523] No. 83.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.**

(No. 150.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 5, 1913.*

THE following is the record made at the *réunion* of Ambassadors to-day:—

Sir E. Grey demande aux Ambassadeurs s'ils ont reçu des réponses de leurs Gouvernements au sujet des cinq points qu'il a formulés dans la dernière séance.

L'Ambassadeur de France répond que son Gouvernement est disposé à donner son assentiment à une délimitation du sud de l'Albanie ayant son point de départ au Cap Stylos et aboutissant à Koritza, à condition que toutes les îles de la mer Egée, à l'exception d'Imbros et de Ténédos, et y compris celles occupées actuellement par l'Italie après leur évacuation, soient attribuées à la Grèce.

L'Ambassadeur d'Italie fait observer que ce point de vue n'est pas conforme aux vues de son Gouvernement, il se borne à la déclaration suivante, qui ne constitue aucun engagement relatif à l'abandon éventuel à la Grèce des îles occupées par l'Italie, ni la reconnaissance d'une connexité entre la question de ces îles et celle de la délimitation albanaise:—

"Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté considère que la question des îles du Dodécanèse, laquelle doit son origine à la guerre italo-turque, est juridiquement réglée par les dispositions du Traité de Lausanne. Cela étant, le Gouvernement italien répète qu'il remettra ces îles à la Turquie dès que le Gouvernement ottoman aura, de son côté, exécuté intégralement les obligations qui lui incombent en vertu de l'article 15 du Traité de Lausanne. Lorsque la restitution des îles à la Turquie aura eu lieu, il va sans dire que le Gouvernement italien prendra part avec les autres Grandes Puissances aux décisions unanimes qui seront éventuellement discutées et adoptées sur le sort définitif des îles susdites, en corrélation avec le règlement général de toutes les questions pendantes, en tenant compte de l'intérêt général de l'Europe à l'intégrité et à la sécurité de la Turquie asiatique."

Les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Allemagne appuient la déclaration de l'Ambassadeur d'Italie.

L'Ambassadeur de Russie dit que son Gouvernement est prêt à adhérer aux cinq points si toutes les Puissances y donnent leur assentiment, mais sous réserve d'une observation relative à l'île de Sasséno, qui appartient à la Grèce, et dont l'annexion à l'Albanie pourrait donner lieu de la part de la Grèce à une demande de compensation.

Le Marquis Imperiali fait remarquer que les droits de la Grèce sur l'île de Sasséno sont contestables, que cette île doit être considérée comme une dépendance de la baie de Vallona et, par conséquent, suivra le sort de cette baie.

Le Comte Mensdorff et le Prince Lichnowsky appuient l'observation du Marquis Imperiali relative à Sasséno.

Le Prince Lichnowsky a pour instructions de réclamer le maintien sous l'autorité ottomane de la petite île de Kasteloriza, qui touche au littoral sud de l'Asie Mineure entre Rhodes et le cap Chelidonia.

* Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 487), Earl Granville (No. 249), Sir R. Rodd (No. 199), and Sir G. Buchanan (No. 263).

Les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie appuient cette proposition, à laquelle ils ne croient pas devoir formuler d'objection, vu le peu d'importance de cette île et sa proximité du littoral.

L'Ambassadeur d'Allemagne dit que son Gouvernement adhère aux cinq points.

L'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie dit que son Gouvernement est prêt à y adhérer également, sous les réserves suivantes:—

"Le Cabinet de Vienne désire une définition plus précise de la ligne à établir entre Stylos et Koritza.

"Relativement aux Koutzo-Vlachs, il réclame l'insertion dans les résolutions à prendre d'une disposition reconnaissant à la Roumanie la possibilité de sauvegarder les droits et intérêts des Koutzo-Vlachs en Épire."

Le Gouvernement austro-hongrois considère, en outre, comme indispensable que les points suivants soient établis:

"1. Date précise pour l'ouverture et la clôture des travaux de la commission de délimitation.

"2. Pour la conduite de ses travaux la commission divisera en sections les territoires à délimiter.

"3. La délimitation devra être faite sur des bases ethnographiques et géographiques.

"4. Il serait désirable que la réunion tombât d'accord sur la nécessité d'inviter immédiatement la Grèce à évacuer de suite les territoires attribués à l'Albanie, et à évacuer les autres régions au fur et à mesure qu'elles sont attribuées à l'Albanie par la commission de délimitation."

Le Marquis Imperiali et le Prince Lichnowsky appuient ces propositions.

Sur le premier alinéa de la proposition autrichienne Sir E. Grey fait observer qu'il appartient à la commission de définir la frontière entre Stylos et Koritza, et qu'il serait très difficile d'arriver à un accord sur une définition plus détaillée et plus précise, la réunion ne possédant pas les éléments nécessaires.

Les Ambassadeurs de France, de Russie et d'Allemagne partagent cet avis.

Les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie se réservent de le soumettre à leurs Gouvernements.

Sur le second alinéa Sir E. Grey fait observer que, la Roumanie et la Grèce étant alliées, il leur appartient de s'entendre sur les garanties à donner aux Koutzo-Vlachs dans les territoires annexés à la Grèce et sans que les Puissances aient à prendre d'initiative.

Les Ambassadeurs de France, de Russie et d'Allemagne pensent que cette opinion sera partagée par leurs Gouvernements.

Les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie se réservent de la soumettre à leurs Gouvernements.

Sur le troisième alinéa:—

1. La réunion est d'accord sur l'utilité de fixer des dates [illegible] pour l'ouverture et la clôture des travaux de la commission de délimitation. [illegible] suggère celles du 1er septembre et du 30 novembre.

2. La réunion ne voit d'objections à une division en sections des territoires à délimiter.

3. La réunion admet que la délimitation devra être faite sur des bases ethnographiques et géographiques.

4. Sir E. Grey et les Ambassadeurs de France et de Russie sont d'avis qu'une fois la délimitation terminée la Grèce devra être mise en demeure d'évacuer les territoires incorporés à l'Albanie.

Sir E. Grey pense que, dans le cas où les Gouvernements austro-hongrois et italien accepteraient cette rédaction, on pourrait s'entendre pour enjoindre à la Grèce de s'abstenir de tout acte d'intimidation sur les populations des territoires qu'elle occupe.

Les Ambassadeurs de France et de Russie partagent cet avis.

Les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie et d'Allemagne se réservent de saisir leurs Gouvernements des modifications proposées à l'alinéa 3 des propositions autrichiennes.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[36353] No. 84.

Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville.

(No. 247.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 5, 1913.*

THE German Ambassador informed me this morning that, according to the information of the German Government, there was a prospect that, if certain definite offers were made to Turkey, she would withdraw from Adrianople, though officially her attitude was that she would not withdraw unless she was forced to do so. The offers might be as follows:—

1. A better frontier than the direct line from Enos to Media—one, for instance, following the Ergene River. M. Sazonof had even spoken of the possibility of substituting San Stefano for Media.

2. No indemnity to be paid by Turkey. M. Sazonof had agreed, though somewhat reluctantly, to this.

3. There was the increase in the Turkish Customs dues, as to which I had said that we ourselves could not make withdrawal from Adrianople a condition, because we were dealing with the question of the increase in separate agreements; but the German Ambassador thought that the French Government would be able to stipulate for the withdrawal, and there might be a general understanding about it.

4. The Turks wished to have a mudir, a sort of spiritual representative, in Adrianople.

5. A revision of the Capitulations. I remarked on this that we must know what was meant by it. We could hardly abolish the Capitulations at a time when Turkey, instead of having advanced in her internal administration, was in confusion. The Ambassador said that certainly we could not give up the Tribunals, but something might be done respecting the taxation of foreigners.

6. There was the question of the islands in Italian occupation; whether Turkey should retain them after the provisions of the Treaty of Lausanne were fulfilled.

I said that these offers might make a reasonable basis for negotiations with Turkey. The best way to deal with the question would be by a circular telegram to the Powers, rather than by discussion in the *réunion*, which was on the point of adjourning. I thought also that perhaps the best time to put the matter before the Turks would be when the Powers were revising the terms settled between the Balkan States. As long as these States were at war with each other, it would be more difficult to put pressure on Turkey about Adrianople; and, if we dealt with Turkey at the same time as we revised conditions about Macedonia, we should avoid the appearance of singling out one country for special interference.

The Ambassador said that it had been reported that I had changed my attitude about Adrianople, and thought that the Turks might remain there. I said that he had not understood this to be the case.

I said that I had not changed my attitude. I thought that Turkey must be induced to withdraw from Adrianople, but I had been from the beginning opposed to precipitate coercive measures.

The Ambassador said that this was practically the line that his Government had taken.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[36354] No. 85.

Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville.

(No. 248.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 5, 1913.*

IN speaking of Kavalla this morning, the German Ambassador informed me that, though he had stated some days ago that his Government were favourable to the retention of Kavalla by Greece, he had heard nothing about it for some time, and he thought it was possible that they might be intending to follow the lead of Austria and Italy in this matter, as they had done in the case of the southern frontier of Albania.

I said that I had not committed myself, and would consult the Cabinet as to whether we should take active sides about Kavalla.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[35160] No. 86.

Mr. Norman to Mr. Ramsay (Treasury).

My dear Ramsay, *Foreign Office, August 5, 1913.*

IN reply to your letter to Maxwell of the 29th July, I write to say that your memorandum has been checked, and the only inaccuracy is a very small one, viz., on page 1, 681,820*l.* instead of 681,818*l.*

The point raised in paragraph 4 of your memorandum, as to whether the charge in favour of the Guaranteed Loan of 1855 merely extended to the Egyptian tribute at that date or whether it embraced the additions to the tribute made in 1866, seems obscure. It may be of service to you to peruse the enclosed memorandum, written by Sir E. Hertslet in 1885, which I send you. Please return it when you have done with it.

Yours sincerely,
H. NORMAN

[36527] No. 87

Memorandum communicated by Greek Minister, August 6, 1913.

FROM various reliable sources the Greek Government is informed that the Greeks in the districts of Berout and Valona are already suffering from the oppression and the exactions of the Mussulman Albanians, who appear to act with the cognisance of the Provisional Albanian Government. The old system of the Turkish Administration is fast reappearing in its persecution of the orthodox Christian element. A detailed list of acts of this nature is sent by post, but the following may be cited as characteristic of the situation, which is being created:—

On a Greek applying for a post for which he was fully qualified, one of the members of the Government told him that there would be no posts for Christians, who had better leave the country at once, for, if they remained in the Albanian State, they will have nothing to look forward to but oppressive measures; trade would be taken from them, they will be boycotted, they will be withdrawn from the spiritual jurisdiction of the Patriarchate, and their churches and schools will be forced to adopt the Albanian language.

At a time when the fate of several tens of thousands of orthodox Christians in Albania is to be decided, it is necessary that these things should be made known to the Powers, who have taken in their hands the future of these populations.

A private letter of a highly placed person at Durazzo states:—

"We have begun to realise that which we apprehended. Gradually another Turkey is being established in our midst—a Turkey which bids fair to exceed in barbarity the old system. Christians are being imprisoned and maltreated without cause or reason. Our representations are met with scorn and contempt; our private correspondence is systematically violated, and our schools and churches seized.

"On the other hand, dissensions prevail in the ranks of the so-called Government. The Beys opposed to that Government are holding a convention here. A few days ago Abdi Bey and Mufit Bey resigned their posts as Ministers, and general anarchy is fast spreading, there being no, and there never having existed any, cohesion among the Albanians."

Athens, August 2, 1913.

[36326] No. 88.

Count Mensdorff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 6.)

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador presents his compliments to the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, with reference to previous communication, has the honour to inform him that the colonel in the Austro-Hungarian general staff, Miezl, has been appointed a member of the international commission for the delimitation of the northern and north-eastern frontier of Albania, in place of Colonel Göttlicher.

Austro-Hungarian Embassy, London,
August 5, 1913.

[36375] No. 89.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 288.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 6, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 5th August.

From what I hear from private sources, concentration of troops at Karaurgan was begun about a fortnight ago.

Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that report of contemplated advance into Armenia was quite unfounded. He said that Russian Government had now settled on definite plan of action in certain eventualities, but all he was at liberty to tell me was that it would not be on the side of Armenia. His Excellency was inclined to take more hopeful view of present disposition of Turkish Government.

[36321] No. 90.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 6, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 295 of yesterday: Osman Nizam. Pasha's mission.

I informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Constantinople telegram No. 373 on 30th July (see my telegram No. 124 of 31st July), and of Constantinople telegram No. 378 on 2nd August (see my despatch No. 282 of 3rd August).

[36373] No. 91.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, August 6, 1913.*

NAVAL attaché, just returned from visit to Xantai, Gumuljina, Dedeagatch, and neighbourhood, found everywhere evidence of appalling persecution of Mussulmans by Bulgarians, with massacre, rape, and forcible conversions. Since the Greek occupation the mosques have been restored to them and they have resumed exercise of their religion, but they ask what is to become of them if they are given back to Bulgaria after their recantation.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[36374] No. 92.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 6, 1913.*

SECRETARY GENERAL at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs tells me that Servian and Bulgarian delegates are now in agreement, and he seemed to be hopeful as to prospect this evening of agreement between Greeks and Bulgarians.

Servia gets Ishtib and Kochana, and Bulgaria gets Strumnitza.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[36356] No. 93.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Posilipo, August 6, 1913.*

I HAVE, in despatches on the way to you by messenger, reported tension between Italy and France indicated by press over the question of the islands and southern frontier of Albania.

The official "Tribuna" to-day published editorial summing up standpoints at issue, and attributing to France insistence that the settlement of the two questions should be interdependent. It concludes by saying that if official France insists on this attitude the *réunion* in London must be adjourned *sine die*, and Italy must settle the questions in which she is interested directly with Greece.

Translation follows by post.

[36371] No. 94.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 392.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 6, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 378 of 6th August.

I hesitated to join in identic communication because I understood that it was to be on lines indicated in my telegram No. 379 of 1st August, and therefore goes a little beyond your original proposal. Moreover, Russian Ambassador told me that *démarche* was suggested by his Government, who had received affirmative replies from all the Governments except His Majesty's Government, which seemed to me to indicate that you were doubtful of utility of proposal.

Communication in exact terms of your proposal is to be made to-morrow.

[35856] No. 95.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 162.)
(Telegraphic.) *Decode.*, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

MR. MORGAN'S telegram No. 74 of 4th August repeated to you. Danger to British tobacco stocks.

You should warn Bulgarian Government accordingly.

(Repeated to Mr. Morgan, adding, "Inform company of action taken.")

[36213] No. 96.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

ENQUIRE whether Bulgarian forces have laid any mines in the Sea of Marmora or anywhere on Turkish coast, and, if so, what is their exact position.

Information required by British shipowners.

[35516] No. 97.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Barclay.

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

IT is reported in the press that you have made a declaration about Cavalla without waiting for your colleagues to be similarly instructed. I presume declaration was only that authorised in my telegram No. 41 of 1st August to you.

I have informed Russian Ambassador, in answer to enquiry, that we do not propose to take any lead in settling to whom Cavalla should eventually belong, but shall acquiesce in any decision to which the Powers strongly incline. You should therefore, while supporting decidedly the reservation by the Powers of liberty to revise any decision about Cavalla, not commit yourself at present to any opinion as between claims of Greece and Bulgaria.

[36496] No. 98.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 302.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

YOU should impress on Minister for Foreign Affairs that two things threaten seriously the prospect of coming to any agreement about South Albanian frontier before the *réunions* are adjourned. One is the French insistence to have it settled now that the islands in Italian occupation are to go to Greece when Italy evacuates them. This alone will wreck any chance of agreement at present. The utmost that we can obtain is something like the declaration offered by the Italian Ambassador at the *réunion* yesterday, under which Italy undertakes to give the islands back to Turkey, but leaves the decision as to their future to be settled by the Powers when they review the final settlement.

I hope French Government will not insist on their view. I am prepared to join in any pressure to prevent permanent retention of islands by Italy, but it seems unnecessary to settle now whether they are to go to Greece or Turkey.

The other danger is that of Austrian insistence on details about the frontier, which ought to be left to the commission. I am pointing out at Vienna and Berlin that the last possible day for a *réunion* is next Monday, and that on Tuesday I must make a statement in Parliament that *réunions* have adjourned, and that unless I can say that a settlement about South Albanian frontier has been reached statement will have an unfavourable effect.

(Repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 575.)

[36496] No. 99.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 576.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 302 of to-day to Paris.

Inform Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[36496] No. 100.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 240.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

LAST possible day for a *réunion* in London before adjournment is Monday. On Tuesday I must make a statement in Parliament and say that *réunions* have adjourned. Unless I can say that a settlement has been reached about South Albanian frontier, the statement will have an unfavourable effect.

Austrian insistence on conditions of detail about frontier commission threatens to wreck prospect of agreement. For instance, I have with some difficulty staved off a proposal that Koritza should only be assigned to Albania if Argyrocastro is given to Greece. I have urged that there could be no agreement upon anything unless everything except Stylos and Koritza were left to the commission to decide, and in deference to this view French Government dropped the proposal about Argyrocastro.

Now Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs stipulates that Stylos must be at once defined so as to ensure Argyrocastro to Albania. I am convinced that agreement is hopeless if we attempt to prejudge in advance any territorial points except Stylos and Koritza.

I am aware that prospect of agreement is also threatened by demand of French

Government at *réunion* yesterday that question of islands in Italian occupation should be decided now in favour of Greece, and I am endeavouring to modify this view at Paris.

Meanwhile, I hope Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs will not press conditions of detail respecting frontier commission beyond the points on which we found at the *réunion* yesterday that agreement would be reached.

(Repeated to Berlin, No. 296, and Rome, No. 231.)

[36496] No. 101.

Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville *

(No. 297.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 240 of to-day to Vienna.

Inform Minister for Foreign Affairs, and ask him to do what he can at Vienna to prevent points of detail being pressed so as to wreck prospect of agreement.

[35659] No. 102.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 378.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 375 of 5th August.

It is stated that you are the only one without instructions to this effect, and we are represented as favouring the permanent retention of Adrianople by Turkey. You should remove this impression by joining in the identic communication, and inform your colleagues of your instructions.

[33222] No. 103.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 235.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

IN a despatch which I have received from the British delegates on the Balkan Financial Commission at Paris it is stated that the committee dealing with concessions and contracts in the territories occupied by the forces of the Balkan States has examined a number of the simpler forms of concession, such as those for mines, for the construction of harbours, and for the cutting of wood in forests; and has arrived at certain principles with regard to the substitution of the annexing State for the Ottoman Government in the obligations of the latter, as to which a considerable measure of agreement has been obtained. These conclusions will be embodied in a report. The more difficult questions, such as those relating to railway concessions, of which that relating to the Oriental railway is the most important, "contrats d'étude," and the date from which the above substitution is to take place, have so far only been touched on, and will be taken up again in the autumn.

Sir P. Harvey, who has hitherto represented Great Britain on this committee, informed Mr. Norman orally that, although His Majesty's Government have but little direct interest in these questions, he was of opinion that they ought to be in a position to have a voice in their settlement. He said that he personally had too little technical knowledge of the subject to be able adequately to represent this country in the matter, and that, in his opinion, it should be represented by a lawyer with a good knowledge of French and conversant with the local conditions.

I have therefore to request you to inform me whether there is at Constantinople any person whom you could recommend as fulfilling the requirements mentioned by Sir P. Harvey, and who would be suitable for the appointment as the representative of His Majesty's Government on this committee.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

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* Also to Sir R. Rodd (No. 232).

[36889] No. 104.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 271.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913*

THE Russian Ambassador to-day gave me the following information :—

"L'Ambassadeur d'Allemagne a informé M. de Giers qu'un homme d'État turc influent lui a dit qu'à la condition d'une pression des Puissances et de certaines conditions la Sublime Porte devrait se décider à évacuer Andrinople

"L'Ambassadeur d'Allemagne, en communiquant ce qui précède à son Gouvernement, lui a suggéré le procédé suivant :—

"1. Proposer officiellement à la Sublime Porte, par le moyen de la réunion des Ambassadeurs à Londres, une nouvelle frontière, qui, en partant d'Énos, aboutirait à Midia, en suivant le cours de l'Erguéné.

"2. Une garantie de la nomination à Andrinople d'un directeur musulman pour l'administration des mosquées et du rasement des fortifications d'Andrinople.

"3. Consentement à l'augmentation des 4 pour cent des droits de douane et de l'avance immédiate au Gouvernement turc de la somme nécessaire pour la solde de l'armée, qui autrement ne pourrait être licenciée.

"4. Une pression collective des Puissances assez prononcée pour qu'elle puisse paraître ne céder qu'à la force.

"M. de Giers a répondu à l'Ambassadeur d'Allemagne qu'il ne voyait pas d'objection à ce plan, sauf pour l'augmentation du 4 pour cent, qui exige les négociations spéciales de nature économique, et d'ailleurs n'a pas de corrélation directe avec la question d'Andrinople."

I said that the German Ambassador had spoken to me in the same sense, and I told the Russian Ambassador of what the German Ambassador had said to me yesterday, as recorded in my despatch No. 247 to Lord Granville, and of what I had replied.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[36890] No. 105

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 272.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

THE Russian Ambassador consulted me to-day as to making known to the Servian and Montenegrin Governments the text of the resolution of the *réunion*, stating, with regard to the protection of minorities, that this should be in accordance with Servian laws

I said that it seemed to me impossible to add to the communication that we had already agreed should be made by way of definition and explanation. The reservation about the Servian laws was a reservation made between the Russian and Austrian Ambassadors, and if need be it could be communicated later at Belgrade. But the first thing was to make the communication exactly as agreed to at the *réunion*.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[36891] No. 106.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 273.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

THE Russian Ambassador asked me to-day about Cavalla.

I said that it was possible to argue both the Bulgarian claim and the Greek claim. He personally agreed that it was very difficult to decide on the merits.

I said that we should not take a lead in the matter of Cavalla, but we would acquiesce in whatever the Powers felt decidedly with regard to its fate.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[36892] No. 107.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 90.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

THE Greek Minister to-day brought me a message from the King of Greece to the effect that a most painful impression had been created on him by information that the British Minister in Bucharest was taking a part there very unfavourable to Greece, especially with regard to Cavalla.

I said that I had given the British Minister in Bucharest no indication as to whether Cavalla should eventually go to Bulgaria or to Greece. He had informed me that some of his colleagues favoured a communication to the Roumanian Government in the following words —

"Whatever may be decided by the conference at Bucharest in regard to the fate of Cavalla, the Great Powers reserve full liberty to revise the decision."

On this I had instructed Sir George Barclay to join in the proposed declaration if all his colleagues were similarly instructed, and had added that the declaration should be made on the understanding that it did not preclude the Powers from revising other points if they thought it necessary. This was the only instruction that I had given to Sir George Barclay about Cavalla, and there could be no foundation for the statement that his attitude had been anti-Greek.

The message from the King of Greece went on to expatiate on the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians, even to the extent of impaling babies on bayonets.

I said that the Bulgarians had stated that massacres had been committed by the Greeks, and it seemed to me that, if all the things were true that were told me in this room by one nationality of another, the war was one of extermination on all sides.

The Greek Minister observed that, in the case of the Bulgarian actions, the information had been obtained by the King of Greece at the head of his army, and the Austrian and Italian consuls could confirm it.

The Minister then told me that, according to precise information acquired by the Greek Legation in Rome, I had proposed at the *réunion* on the first day of the present month that Tenedos, Imbros, and Thasos should be excepted from the islands given to Greece. He emphasised the importance of Thasos, owing to its close connection with Cavalla. He went on to state quite accurately the proposal that had been made at the *réunion* about the southern frontier of Albania and the islands in Italian occupation.

I said that it was perfectly true that I had proposed as a basis for agreement, that the islands in Greek occupation should go to Greece, with the exception of Tenedos, Imbros, and Thasos. But it was not my original proposal that Tenedos, Imbros and Thasos should be excepted; France and Great Britain had originally proposed that all the Ægean islands should go to Greece; certain Powers had objected to giving to Greece the islands at the mouth of the Straits, and Mitylene and Chios which were very near to the Turkish coast. Eventually a compromise had been reached under which, in deference to our views, it was agreed that Mitylene and Chios should go to Greece, and the only exceptions claimed were Tenedos and Imbros. Thasos, as long ago as last December, when it was assumed that Cavalla would go to Bulgaria, had been assigned by the Powers to Bulgaria, but it was not on my proposition that that had been done, though we had all agreed to it. If the question of Cavalla came to be reconsidered, presumably the question of Thasos would also come up for reconsideration. But the whole of this settlement of the question of the islands was conditional upon an agreement being come to about the southern frontier of Albania. The Greek Minister must understand that, when I made proposals in the *réunion*, they were made as a résumé of the views of other Powers on which an agreement might be possible.

The Minister asked me whether, at the meeting yesterday, we had settled the southern frontier of Albania, or whether he was to understand that no progress had been made.

I replied that the proceedings at the *réunion* were confidential, and if they had been disclosed in Rome that was a matter on which I must speak seriously to the Italian Ambassador.

The Minister said that the island of Sasseno had been assigned by the British Commissioner to Greece, and had always belonged to her.

I asked whether the island had been administered by Greece, and after I had repeated the question once or twice, the Minister observed that Sasseno, being a barren

spot, it was difficult to say how it was administered. He offered to send me the documents showing that it had been assigned to Greece by the British Commissioner, and I said that I should be very glad to have them.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[33223] No. 108.

Sir Edward Grey to the British Delegates on the Balkan Financial Commission.

(No. 10.)
Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1913.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 25 of the 18th ultimo, I transmit to you a despatch which I have addressed to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,* enquiring whether he can recommend a lawyer with knowledge of French and conversant with the local conditions in the Balkans who could be appointed to represent His Majesty's Government on the committee of the Balkan Financial Commission dealing with concessions and contracts in the occupied territories.

In the event of its being possible to obtain the services of an additional legal member of the nature required it would be desirable that he should be placed in communication with Mr Hurst, the representative of His Majesty's Government on the pecuniary claims arbitration at Washington. The principles of law which apply in question of State succession are vague and difficult, and it is undesirable that His Majesty's Government should put forward contentions in Paris inconsistent with those that they are advancing in the pecuniary claims arbitration cases at Washington.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[36384] No. 109.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 174.)
Sir, *Athens, July 31, 1913.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 109 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report that Lieutenant-Colonel F. Cunliffe Owen left Athens to-day to return to London.

I took the opportunity this morning of expressing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the surprise I felt at seeing in the papers that Captain Kunze, an officer attached to the German Legation, had been allowed to proceed to the front and be present at a battle, when permission had been refused to all the military attachés to do so. M. Coromilas replied that the incident had been misunderstood. The German Government had been asked, like the others, to send some one to verify the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians, and Captain Kunze had been chosen for the purpose. The Queen had charged him with a letter for the King, and after delivering it he had, without His Majesty's knowledge, made his way to the front, where he nearly fell into the hands of the Bulgarians. The King had sent him back the next day. His Majesty would not receive the attachés because he had no accommodation to offer them nor attention to bestow on them.

The indignation of the military attachés at having, as they thought, a march stolen upon them by Captain Kunze, has been appeased by the news that he was not allowed to remain at the front.

(Confidential.)

The real reason for the refusal of permission to the military attachés to proceed to the seat of war was reported at the time of the seige of Yannina, and was repeated to me by M. Venizelos just before his departure for Bucharest, namely, distrust of the Austrian, Colonel Tanczos.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

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* No 103

[36385] No. 110.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 175.)
Sir, *Athens, August 1, 1913.*

I TOOK the opportunity of the receipt of the news of the meeting of the conference at Bucharest, and of the agreement for a suspension of hostilities, to express to M. Coromilas yesterday the hope that the Greek demands would be moderate, and to remind him (several of my colleagues having already done so) that any arrangements as to distribution of territory will have to be ratified by the Powers.

His Excellency replied that he did not see the necessity for this; the principle that the allies were to settle the partition among themselves had been solemnly proclaimed, and no European treaty was affected by it. I said that no arguments would get over the fact that Europe meant to have a voice in the matter, and that moderation is therefore imperative upon Greece. Fortunately M. Venizelos and not M. Coromilas is in charge of Greek interests at Bucharest.

I had the honour to report, in my telegram No. 131 of the 21st ultimo, the frontier which M. Venizelos proposed to claim, namely, the line of the Beles Mountain up to, and including, Demir Hissar, thence north-east to Perelik, and from there south-east to the coast at Makri. Upon my saying that I was sure that the Powers would consider that it extended much too far east, and also pointing out that it included the purely Pomak *enclave* which had been expressly excluded from Eastern Roumelia, M. Venizelos (who had previously expressed his desire to include as few Bulgarians as possible in the Greek dominions) said that the Pomaks were not Bulgarian by religion, and that they were, in fact, being persecuted and forcibly converted by the Bulgarians. The strip of land bordering the coast was entirely Greek and Turkish, and contained no Bulgarian inhabitants. (This was confirmed to me by Colonel Fairholme, whom I saw some days later on his way to Constantinople.)

I reminded M. Venizelos of his declaration in the Chamber that he would not accept as a gift the coast of Thrace without a hinterland, to which he said that he had been obliged at that time to make use of all the arguments he could think of; that circumstances had changed since then, and that, after what has happened, it had become impossible to concede to Bulgaria the numerical preponderance which would then have been accepted, and that his proposed line would only establish an approximate equality of numbers between the populations of Greece, Servia, and Bulgaria. Moreover, he desired to recommend to your consideration the view that, with an eye to future developments, it was desirable for France and England that Greece should be as strong as possible.

I suggested to his Excellency that, as he himself did not anticipate that relations between Greece and Bulgaria would be friendly for many a long day, and it would consequently be necessary to take measures for the permanent defence of the frontier, the shorter the line was the better; he replied, however, that the line he proposed provided the best strategical frontier in the opinion of his military advisers.

On the map M. Venizelos's proposed line certainly appears excessive; I note, however, from Sir H. Bax-Ironside's telegram No. 310 of the 23rd ultimo that he thinks the Bulgarian Government might perhaps consent to it. If so it would be agreeable to give effect to the undoubted wishes of the inhabitants of those regions. The closeness between them and Greece was shown in a remarkable manner when the news of the occupation of Cavalla reached Athens. From a military point of view the operation was of no importance whatever, but, to judge from the ringing of church bells and the firing of revolvers, the Athenians put it on a par with the capture of Salonica or Yannina. The whole town had been living in a state of tension for days owing to the apprehension of massacres of their fellow Greeks by the Bulgarians.

There has never been any question here of the exclusion of Bulgaria from a port on the Ægean, there being no intention of contesting her ultimate possession of Dedeagatch, with its railway ready made to Adrianople and Philippopolis, provided the Turks can be induced or compelled to evacuate the former town. After the inevitable curtailment of territory which Bulgaria must suffer in Macedonia a port so far west as Cavalla will no longer be of the same importance to her. The retention of Cavalla by Greece would no doubt happily carry with it that of the island of Thasos, wholly inhabited by Greeks and Turks.

The idea of a strip of Servian territory dividing the Greek from the Bulgarian frontier and carrying a railway debouching on the Ægean appears to have been given

up as impracticable. The Greeks would have been glad of a buffer between themselves and the Bulgarians, but the advantage to Servia of possessing a line and port of her own would have been more than counterbalanced by the difficulty and expense of working them, and Greece is prepared to give her every facility at Salonica.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

[36526] No. 111.

M. Sazonof to Count Benckendorff.—(Communicated to Foreign Office, August 7.)

(Confidential.)
(Télégraphique.) *Saint-Pétersbourg, le 21 juillet (3 août), 1913*

Il ne nous semble pas possible de laisser ignorer aux Gouvernements serbe et monténégrin le texte d'une résolution qui les intéresse si directement. Pour éviter malentendu, notre communication pourrait garder provisoirement caractère confidentiel. Nous croyons cependant que d'une manière ou de l'autre on devrait aviser l'opinion publique au sens exact des résolutions prises par les Puissances. Veuillez faire part à Sir Edward Grey de notre avis.

[36370] No. 112.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

[By Post.]

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 6, 1913.*

OFFICERS for Albanian gendarmerie.

French Government agree to procedure suggested in your telegram No. 298 of 1st August.

36533] No. 113.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 395.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 7, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 392 of yesterday.

Identic communication made this morning. Grand Vizier would express no opinion on it, but promised to reply as soon as he had consulted Cabinet.

[36534] No. 114.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 396.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 7, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 376 of 5th August.

I see no reason to retain "Medea," nor present necessity for replacing her.

[36540] No. 115.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 240 of yesterday.

Secretary-General, who will speak to Minister for Foreign Affairs this evening, told Mr. Douglas to-day that new and final instructions were sent to Austrian Ambassador in London last night as to attitude to be adopted at the *réunion* with

regard to Southern Albanian frontier. These represented the last word of Austrian Government. They hoped that agreement would be reached. They had renounced their condition of preliminary evacuation of places by Greeks. They did not wish to make difficulties, but considered it essential that limits within which commission was to work should be fixed.

[36537] No. 116.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Cettinjé, August 7, 1913.*

KING expressed great satisfaction at the terms of peace of Bucharest, and said that there would be no difficulty on the subject of frontier between Servia and Montenegro, but he avoided entering into details with me.

[36536] No. 117.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 337.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, August 7, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 330 of 31st July.

Bulgarian Government have sent note to representatives of the Great Powers here stating that they have instructed their delegates to sign preliminaries of treaty of peace. At the same time they have decided on demobilisation immediately, in spite of danger of a Turkish invasion of Southern Bulgaria, which appeared to them to be as menacing as ever.

This decision is due to profound conviction of the Government that the Great Powers, who are working in favour of adoption of Enos-Midia line, will be able to impose on Turkey respect for Treaty of London, arranged under their auspices.

Bulgarian Government rely on the Great Powers using all possible means to prevent Turkish invasion of Bulgaria with its inevitable consequences.

Note concludes by asking me to inform you of the above as a matter of extreme urgency.

(Sent to Constantinople, Bucharest, and Athens viâ Belgrade.)

[36539] No. 118.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 338.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 7, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of to-day.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has just called to inform me that Bulgarian Government are much exercised again respecting advance of Turkish army.

They have, he states, reoccupied Mustapha Pasha and Ormanli on right bank of Maritza, and they have considerably reinforced all their former positions throughout Thrace. His Excellency believes that they will again invade Bulgaria unless threatened with force by one or more of the Great Powers.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[36542] No. 119.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 290.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, August 7, 1913.*

I COMMUNICATED to Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day *aide-mémoire* embodying your telegram No. 576 of 6th August [Balkans], as Minister for Foreign Affairs was unable to see me.

[36535] No. 120.

Mr Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 191.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 7, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 105 of 3rd July

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs informed me this morning that Servian troops had been withdrawn from Pouka. Troops were being retained in Oroshi, as withdrawal would open door to Albanian incursions, which he had good reason to believe Provisional Government had been endeavouring to organise, though hitherto unsuccessfully. He assured me there was no fear of collision with Mirdites, who did not view temporary occupation with disfavour

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to the Premier at Bucharest for fresh instructions.

(Sent to British admiral, Scutari.)

[36481] No. 121.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 7, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 43 of 6th August.

The Austrian and Russian Ministers are the only ones who have made the declaration about Cavalla.

I read to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on 3rd August your telegram No. 41 of 1st August, leaving with him an *aide-mémoire* embodying its contents. I emphasised the fact at the same time that I was only authorised to make the declaration when my colleagues were similarly instructed. On hearing of the press reports of 5th August I visited the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and reminded him of what I had said, and later, when I was questioned by Bulgarian delegates, I explained the true state of the case, as I have also done to the Greek Prime Minister. The latter told me confidentially that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had informed the other peace delegates, in private conversation, that I had made the declaration in question. Minister for Foreign Affairs enquired of me on 3rd August as to the attitude of His Majesty's Government as regards Cavalla, and I replied that I did not know, but that I had gathered, from correspondence I had seen, that His Majesty's Government would not raise objections to its going to Bulgaria.

[36507] No. 122.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 162.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 7, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 160 of 6th August.

Yesterday the Greeks and Bulgarians came to an agreement regarding territorial claims.

Frontier commences at the mouth of the Mesta, follows that river for about 15 miles, and then continues to the north to a point 15 miles south-east of Perehik. Here it takes a westerly course along line of Rusova, Kula, Veles Mountains, until it meets the Servian frontier a few miles north of Lake Doiran.

To-day question of compensation for damage is to be discussed. Greece is proposing that they should make an agreement for each to pay compensation for damage, not necessitated by military exigencies, committed by its troops, both regular and irregular, in territory that is now allotted to the other country.

Question of the islands has not been discussed. Greece assumes that Thasos will go to her with Cavalla. She is proposing that Bulgaria should renounce all claim to Crete, that island having been ceded by Turkey to all four belligerents.

An armistice, followed by demobilisation, is to be arranged at once. If Bulgaria raises difficulties as regards demobilisation on account of Turkish occupation of Thrace, she will be asked to remove troops from the western frontier.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[36508] No. 123.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 7, 1913.*

THE Greek Prime Minister has just called to tell me that the confidential statement he made to me, as reported at the end of the penultimate paragraph of my telegram No. 161 of 7th August, was misleading, and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs did not tell the delegates that I had made the declaration in question.

[36519] No. 124.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 165.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 7, 1913.*

I SAW the Greek Prime Minister this morning. He asked me to put forward a plea for non-intervention by the Great Powers in the present settlement. He said that, had the Powers wished to intervene, the time to have done so would have been before the recent fratricidal struggle, when such intervention might have prevented great suffering and loss of life.

He urged that intervention after the present conference would have the effect of prolonging uncertainty in the Balkans, delaying the settlement of the country and exciting cupidities. All these disadvantages could be avoided by treating the present settlement as final.

[36536] No. 125.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 7, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 160 of yesterday.

New Serbo-Bulgarian frontier starts at point where old frontier of Kossovo vilayet left Bulgarian frontier. It follows line of this frontier as far as the point south of Pecovo where latter frontier turns west. New frontier then continues in a west-south-westwardly direction until it again cuts Kossovo frontier north-west of Strumnitz. Thence it runs south-east to a point a few miles north of Lake Doiran, where it joins Greek frontier

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[36546] No. 126.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 7, 1913.*

FOLLOWING communication has been made to me by Italian Foreign Office in strict confidence —

'French Minister for Foreign Affairs has proposed through the Italian Ambassador at Paris that at [illegible] to-morrow Italy should make a declaration in approximately following sense: 'Italy while firmly adhering to her intention to restore islands in her occupation to Turkey, recognises that ultimate disposal of these islands rests with the Powers, and undertakes not to oppose any decision which the other five may unanimously agree on.' He claimed that such a formula was favourable to Italy, as she could easily induce one of her allies to defend the position she desired to adopt. Should Italy not accept this proposal, France would suggest that further discussion be dropped and perhaps resumed at end of September.

"Italian Government contend that the formula down to the first and second commas is practically what Italian Ambassador has already submitted at last meeting As regards final undertaking, it amounts to a suggestion that Italy should withdraw from concert of the Powers, and leave issue to be determined by the other five. This, they argue, is not a proposal consistent with their national dignity, and the Italian Ambassador would be instructed to say that he could not accept it.

"Secretary-General, in communicating the above to me, said he had confidence in that your spirit of impartiality would appreciate feeling of the Italian Ambassador as regards this suggestion. He frankly admitted that Italy had made the mistake of at one period entertaining the idea that the question of the islands might balance that of the southern frontier of Albania, but circumstances had changed, and he repeated that Greece was so sure of eventual reversion of the islands that she now attached less importance to their immediate transfer.

"Issue now seems to be reduced to a question of formula, and it would be greatly appreciated if you could advise some form of declaration at the meeting to-morrow, which would satisfy French without entailing the exclusion of Italy from the agreement of the five Powers, and might be accepted at final meeting on Monday if there is to be one. There would be no difficulty if the formula ended at second comma."

[36521] No. 127.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 7, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 297 of 6th August.

I have communicated to Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs your telegram No. 240 of 6th August to Vienna, and he gladly promised to do all he could in Vienna in the sense desired.

He told me that he believed that the Italian Government were prepared to make a declaration at the next *réunion* that, though they were bound by their treaty to restore the islands eventually to Turkey, they were willing to subscribe to a decision of the Powers that the islands should then be handed over to Greece.

[36544] No. 128.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 7, 1913.*

BALKANS.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that he had been much in favour of strong representations at Constantinople by Powers, but he now thought that it was too late for such representations to have any effect, especially as it seemed unlikely that Powers could agree on point of compensation which could be offered, and if they could agree Turkey would probably not be satisfied. His great fear was that it might lead to isolated action, but he hoped that this was now less probable. He would prefer that Powers should do nothing, and leave Bulgaria, whose hands were now free in consequence of Bucharest peace, to settle question direct with Turkey as best she could. He was also very anxious that Powers should not interfere with Bucharest settlement. He would prefer that they should express their approval at once through Ministers at Bucharest, but, if that were impossible, he thought that question could stand over till Ambassadors' *réunion* in London met again after the holidays.

[36530] No. 129.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 7, 1913.*

THE Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs is much distressed at learning your proposal to meeting of the Ambassadors that Bulgaria should have Thasos. It was quite unexpected by him, and, of course, stiffened Bulgaria in the peace negotiations.

He declares the island to be entirely Greek, with only a few Turkish functionaries, and no Bulgarians at all, which I believe to be true.

To show that Greece has not been made grasping by success, he states what she is now getting is less than the settlement he proposed to Bulgaria last October.

(Sent to Sophia and Bucharest viâ Belgrade.)

[36643] No. 130.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 383.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 7, 1913.*

YOUR reports about Rodosto and district have been brought to notice of Tewfik Pasha, who has replied that the troops are not responsible, but the Mussulman population, who were exasperated at misdeeds of Bulgarians. He states that order was re-established within twenty-four hours on arrival of Turkish troops—a state of siege proclaimed, a court-martial instituted. A credit of 5,000*l.* has been sent for succour of sufferers. Telegrams in press state that Hadji Chériff Bey has been executed with accomplices.

Have you any observations?

[36373] No. 131.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 385.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 7, 1913.*

SIR F. ELLIOT'S telegram No. 147 of 6th August, repeated to you.

I propose to raise this question in connection with revision by the Powers of settlement respecting Macedonia and Thrace.

(Repeated to Athens, No. 110.)

[36370] No. 132.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Johnstone.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 7, 1913.*

SWEDEN having intimated inability to supply officers for Albanian gendarmerie about to be organised, I have suggested to the Governments of the other Great Powers that Holland should next be approached.

You should apply to Netherlands Government accordingly as soon as your five colleagues are similarly instructed.

[36677] No. 133.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Barclay.

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 7, 1913.*

WITHOUT expressing any opinion upon the merits of the terms of peace between different nationalities, you should congratulate the Roumanian Government on the fact that peace has been secured at Bucharest.

[36962] No. 134.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 499.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 7, 1913.*

M. CAMBON told me to-day that he was instructed to inform me that the original attitude of France about Koritza and Stylos had been that, as a *quid pro quo* for the cession of these to Albania, all the Ægean islands should go to Greece. The Italians had accepted this position. Then they had suggested that one of the islands, say Rhodes, should be assigned to Turkey; and afterwards they had drifted away

altogether from the position that they had at first accepted. They had no right, therefore, to complain of the French attitude. M. Pichon had explained this to the Italian Ambassador in Paris, and had expressed himself ready to agree that the Powers should decide the final destination of the islands now occupied by Italy, if Italy would promise not to object to the attribution of the islands made by the Powers. The Italian Ambassador in Paris had promised to recommend this to his Government. M. Cambon observed that it was in substance what I had proposed.

I agreed, and said that I would support it as a fair proposition.

I told M. Cambon of the efforts that I was making to get the Austrian Government not to insist on unnecessary conditions.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[36963] No. 135.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 500.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 7, 1913.*

M. CAMBON said to-day that M. Pichon saw objection to the summoning of a conference or congress to revise the whole treaty made between the Balkan States. The Powers would be divided into two camps in such a conference, and there would be endless discussion. He asked for my view.

I said that it would be much better that the Powers should not approach the treaty from the point of view of a revision of the whole of it, but that the treaty should be presumed to be valid, subject to an indication by the Powers of any point or points that they thought required to be modified. I thought that the best method for the Powers to deal with the treaty in this way would be by the usual exchange of views between the respective Governments. My experience of the *réunion* latterly had been that one or two Foreign Offices—the French Foreign Office was not one of them—had found it so easy to send off instructions to their Ambassadors in London to bring points before the *réunion* that many trivial and unnecessary points were raised. But if each Government had to instruct five Ambassadors in different capitals in order to bring any point before the Powers they would not raise quite so many points. I thought that it was essential that discussion should revert to the ordinary channel of diplomatic communication for a time.

M. Cambon said that Austria and Russia desired a conference, but Germany, he thought, was opposed to it. There was a precedent for avoiding a conference, in the action of Austria herself at the time of the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, when the matter had been settled by an exchange of views between the Powers.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[36959] No. 136.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Barclay.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 7, 1913.*

THE Roumanian Minister asked me to-day whether I had any message for his Government on the subject of the conclusion of peace.

I said that I could express no opinion upon the merits of the terms of peace, but the fact that peace had been concluded was in itself a great relief. The bloodshed had been fearful. I congratulated his Government on the fact that peace had been concluded in Bucharest.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[36960] No. 137.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Barclay.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 7, 1913.*

THE Roumanian Minister asked me to-day about the Koutzo-Vlachs in the Pindo

I said that the Powers had not yet come to a decision with regard to the south of Albania.

I asked him whether Roumania had made terms with Bulgaria as to the treatment of Koutzo-Vlachs in Bulgarian territory.

He said that Roumania had done so.

I understood him to say that she had also made stipulations with Greece.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[36961] No. 138.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Barclay.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 7, 1913.*

THE Roumanian Minister said to-day that he had spoken to some of the Ambassadors about the question of Mount Athos, and they had referred him to me. He heard that the question had been settled as long ago as last December, but he wished to have information. He understood the settlement to be that Mount Athos should be under the protectorate of the Orthodox Powers.

I replied that, during last December, a proposal had been put forward for the settlement of the question of Mount Athos. One of the Governments had proposed one or two amendments. These had been accepted, and there had been an assumption that the question was settled. But the Governments had not definitely confirmed the proposal, and recently one of them desired to raise new points. This had happened when the war was breaking out between Bulgaria and Roumania and the other Balkan States, when the Turks had gone back to Adrianople, and when the *réunion* here was endeavouring to finish one or two difficult points still outstanding about Albania. I had therefore said that we could not reopen the question of Mount Athos in the discussions of the *réunion* at present. I could only say to the Roumanian Minister that the Governments had not yet confirmed the decision come to.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[36558] No. 139.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 137.)
Sir, *Belgrade, July 20, 1913.*

I REGRET that owing to an oversight I have hitherto omitted to state that in view of the war no new budget was presented to the Skupshtina by the Minister of Finance this year, and the figures of the 1912 Estimates were accepted as a basis for the current year. Under the circumstances I have not drawn up any financial report for 1913.

Special credits necessitated by the military operations and other circumstances will appear in the report which will be drawn up in this legation for 1914.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET.

[36560] No. 140.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 139.)

Sir, *Belgrade, August 1, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of three despatches addressed to me by Mr Vice-Consul Peckham reporting on the present situation in his consular district of Uskub.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET

Enclosure 1 in No. 140.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Sir R. Paget

(No. 35.)

Sir, *Uskub, July 17, 1913.*

ONE of my colleagues recently remarked "every six months we are faced with a political combination." It is not therefore surprising to find that, with the guns still speaking at Kustendil, there are already some indications pointing to a re-shuffling of the cards in the Balkans.

Anti Austrian feeling seems permanent in Servia. Spy mania is endemic among minor police officials, but I noticed that, even during the strained relations with Bulgaria which preceded the present conflict, there seemed no tendency to suppose that the suspected spy was anything but Austrian.

Naturally, the rumours in circulation as to the "Bulgarian atrocities" exceed considerably the facts as given in my despatch No. 34 of the 14th instant and have provoked bitter feelings against Bulgaria. At the same time I have seen indications of a counter-current of opinion among certain educated Servians who consider that, in spite of the war and the feelings provoked by Bulgarian action, the Balkan Federation may yet be brought about, and even discuss first steps such as Customs Union including Bulgaria and a union for the execution of judgments.

Greco-Servian relations do not appear ideal, and there seem to have been some recriminations between MM. Venizelos and Pashitch. It is complained that the Greek army, instead of advancing northward against the common enemy, preferred to extend the zone of its occupation westwards, where victories were cheaper and territory to be had for the occupying, leaving the Servians to bear the brunt of the war. It is also said that when the Greeks took Ghevgheli they removed the Servian inscriptions on the station, the prefecture and municipality, replaced them by Greek and destroyed the Servian archives.

The small Greek colony here turned up at the station on M. Venizelos's arrival but the latter, presently in my opinion, refused to receive them. Greek popular demonstrations are not always as tactful as they might be.

I have so far heard nothing about feeling towards Roumania, except a remark that Roumania's having taken part in this war made it more likely that she would join the Balkan confederation.

An individual who, some three weeks ago, travelled down from Prishtina with a trainload of Montenegrin soldiers over what was, for them, historic ground, told me that they contrasted the rich plain of Kossovo Polye with the barren mountains which was all that their hard fighting had been able to win. But I have heard of a scheme for handing over the whole of the province north of Novi-Bazar to Montenegro as compensation for Servian territorial gains in Ishtib and Strumnitza. There also seems to be an idea to settle the Montenegrin reinforcements on the new territory to be taken from the Bulgarians near Ishtib. Such a scheme would have many advantages. It would check Montenegrin grumbling at the unequal spoils of war, by mixing the population of the two South-Slav States, it might well promote the cause of union, it would establish a Serb outpost in territory which is at present almost solid Bulgar, and it would check the emigration from Montenegro to the United States, which has had, I hear, disastrous effects for the former.

And a more or less close union with Montenegro is looked on as a matter of course. "Of course, you will form some sort of union with Montenegro," I remarked to one Servian. "We have united," was the reply. Another indication of this is that, whereas there are Greek and Roumanian officers attached to the headquarter staff here, there is no Montenegrin. I commented on this once, but the feeling seems to be that the Montenegrins are not foreigners that they should need special representation.

I have tried to ascertain what the feeling is with regard to territorial aggrandisement as a result of this war. One Servian spoke of Vrshats "where the population is Serb, and which is was offered to King Milan in '85," another of a strategic rectification of the Tsaribrod frontier, while opinion seems generally in favour of an accession of territory east of the Vardar to ensure that the line of communication with Salonica shall not be dangerously near the frontier.

I have, &c.
W. D. PECKHAM

Enclosure 2 in No. 140.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Sir R. Paget

(No. 36.)

Sir, *Uskub, July 21, 1913.*

TWO Sundays have now passed since, as I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 33 of the 12th instant, the Servian authorities took over the Exarchist churches here. The local Bulgars show no sign of accepting the situation; the mass of them prefer to forgo divine service altogether to attending it in a Patriarchist church. There is no Uniate Bulgar church here, had there been one, I have no doubt that its congregation would have increased enormously. As it is, a certain number have attended the Roman Catholic Church and others the Protestant. This latter may be, said, in one way, to be more Bulgar than the Exarchate, for its services are in modern literary Bulgarian and not in the old Slavonic common to the Serb and Bulgar branches of the Orthodox Church. The pastor, M. Popof, is himself a consular agent of Norway and a Bulgarian subject; that he has so far escaped all molestation at the hands of the Government shows that the latter trusts him to keep out of the vortex of local politics. On the whole, I share this confidence, though, without doubting M. Popof's good intentions, I am not absolutely sure that he has the tact and diplomatic ability which may be needed to guide his flock through the present crisis. He has professed to me his intention to refuse to enrol as Protestants any persons whose motives in changing religion he believes to be political, but he cannot well object to Exarchists attending his service, and the fact that the service is held in Bulgarian will be sure, sooner or later, to attract the attention of the authorities. There is one particular difficulty which, however, is not likely to arise. M. Popof, while praying in a general and non-committal way for "the Government," does not, and never has, mentioned a particular sovereign by name.

But the mass of the local Bulgars seem inclined to wait further developments before taking any final step. Till the war is over, they are not likely to abandon all hope of a reconstitution of the Exarchist Church, and the exile of the leading members of the community (see my despatch No. 30 of the 5th instant) leaves the remainder deprived of the guidance and counsel that they look for. I do not therefore expect any definite secessions from orthodoxy, at least till something like [illegible] has been [illegible]

For political purposes the Exarchists of Kossovo may be divided into two sections.

First, there are the professional agents of the propaganda, schoolmasters and priests and the like. There is no probability of their [illegible] and, I have little doubt that, after the manner of professional agitators, they would have been somewhat discontented at any settlement, including annexation to Bulgaria, which put an end to the confusion which was in part at least, the source of their livelihood. They must all be marked men and, at the first sign of their giving trouble, will doubtless be expelled.

Second, there is the village population. In spite of a great many assurances to the contrary, I expect these people to settle down as good Servians. Emigration is practically out of the question for them. Besides the love of his paternal acres which characterises the Slav, there are other difficulties in the way. It is very difficult for villages to emigrate except *en bloc* and with outside aid. The Servian Government would not be likely to spend money in order to lose taxpayers. Bulgaria, if I am not mistaken, will be in no position to bear the expense of a costly emigration scheme. I would prefer to leave these people here, in the hope of ultimately regaining the territory which they inhabit.

Third, there is the town population, mainly engaged in commerce. It is here that

converts to the Uniate or Protestant Churches are to be looked for. But the great mass of these people will probably emigrate, indeed, some have already done so and others are making preparations. I was recently told that the Kumanovo Bulgars were refusing to settle their debts. "Why should we?" was the naive explanation, "we are leaving the country." Thanks to some degree of education and to newspapers, they have a real national spirit and in most cases this will weigh more with them than the value of the business connections they have formed here. Business will be impossible unless they profess themselves Serbs, e.g., I have heard complaints that letters addressed to persons with Bulgar names get mysteriously lost in the post.

A Servian business man here recently gave me what purported to be the secret history of the Tsaribrod interview. According to this, it was agreed between the two Premiers that the Servian territorial claims were to be satisfied, with the two stipulations that the Vardar Valley and Monastir were to be handed over to Bulgaria if Servia succeeded in gaining Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that the Bulgarian churches and schools were to be allowed to continue. The scheme was vetoed by General Putnik, who objected to the *imperium in imperio* involved in the last clause.

It seems to me, therefore, that any attempt of the Bulgars to preserve their national existence, either as Uniates or as Protestants, will provoke the opposition, not only of the clergy but also of the military. If they were to enter into full communion with Rome their case would be worse. They might no longer be considered Bulgars, but they would probably be considered Shvabs, and my experience is that the hatred of the Servian for the Austrian is deeper and more permanent that his hatred for the Bulgar.

I have, &c.
W. D. PECKHAM

Enclosure 3 in No. 140.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Sir R. Paget.

(No. 3.)

Sir, *Uskub, July 24, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Vuchkovitch recently, in the course of conversation on the general political situation, remarked to me: "What makes me uneasy is the question of how we are to administer the new territory; we are short of trustworthy administrative officials in Servia proper as it is."

I enclose herewith a list of the Servian prefectures ("okrug") and sub-prefectures ("srez") as at present arranged in Kossovo vilayet, also, for purposes of comparison, the old Turkish grouping. The changes that have been made are not due, I think, to any serious objection to the old groupings but to the fact that considerations other than administrative influenced the Turks in their arrangements. Thus, the Turkish division of the extreme north of the province appears to have been due to a desire to blot out from the list of sanjaks the too-well-known name of Novi-Bazar.

Assuming that the Servians are successful in the present war, and carry out what appears to be their intention of leaving the Bulgarians in possession of no part of Macedonia, they will be confronted with the problem of administering a territory almost as large as Servia itself.

Their methods, so far as I have seen them, are open to criticism. Apart from questions of racial intolerance or of corruption (this latter charge is frequently made to me but has not so far been seriously proved and probably would be very difficult to prove, if true), there are errors of principle. The Government has installed the normal system of Servian administrative decentralisation, with martial law superadded; this system, however well it may be suited in time of peace to a country with a fairly homogeneous population such as Servia, is unsuited to the particular needs of Macedonia at the moment. Authority needs to be more centralised, and a continuation of the old Turkish vilayet system would have been more suited to the administration of a Reichsland.

I have previously noted (my despatch No. 14, Confidential, of the 12th December, 1913), that the Servians have not been so successful in the rôle of conciliators as they were in that of conquerors. A notable point bearing on this is their choice of administrative functionaries here. No prefect or sub-prefect in Kossovo has been, I believe, appointed by transfer, all by promotion. Instead of sending their best administrators into the occupied territory they seem to have considered it a suitable

dumping ground for those who were good enough for Servia proper. M. Tserovich, the prefect here, is simply a peasant, with practically no claims to any culture, he is also well known as a violent anti-Bulgar. Granted that in the circumstances the iron hand was necessary, the velvet glove was equally so, there is no trace of the velvet glove, but rather the knuckleduster about M. Tserovich.

The mayors, who plays a considerable part in Servian administration, are generally Macedonian Serbs, though in the far north, where there is an appreciable Bosbnak (Moslem Serb) population, they are sometimes Moslems. They have therefore local knowledge, but unfortunately their local associations tend to make them anti-Bulgar or anti-Albanian, or both (see my despatch No. 2, Confidential, of the 23rd January). A Kalkandelen Albanian, commenting to me on the administration, remarked that it gave the mayors very wide powers, and was evidently nervous lest they should be abused.

Government action in the occupied territory has not escaped criticism from the Servians themselves. I have come across several who fully realise that the action of the Government with regard to the public debt and the régie (see my despatch No. 7 of the 3rd February) will prove very costly in the long run, and who deprecate the system by which the first sign of union with Servia is the imposition of Servian taxation. "Besides," one of them remarked to me, "the Government have sent here as director and sub-director of customs, two first-class robbers who ought to be hung."

I have tried to ascertain what public opinion is as to the question of applying the Servian constitution in its entirety here as soon as the formal annexation has taken place. M. Vuchkovitch, some time ago, quoted the parallel case of Nish, and seemed of opinion that the public conscience would be shocked at the continuance of despotic government after annexation and peace, but later Bulgarian action seems to me to have put this out of the question, and it is perhaps significant that the phrase or gradually used "the newly liberated territory," appears to be giving place to the more correct "the occupied territory of the Turkish Empire."

I have, &c.
W. D. PECKHAM

Enclosure 4 in No. 140.

List of Administrative Divisions in Kossovo Vilayet.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS of Territory occupied by Servians.

Prefecture.	Sub-Prefectures.
Uskub	Kachanik, Kuprulu.
Kumanovo	Kratovo, Palanka, Preshevo.
Kalkandelen .. .	Gostivar, Krechevo (Monastir vilayet).
Prisrend	Dyakova.
Prishtina	Ferizovitch, Mitrovitza, Gilan.
Novi-Bazar	Senitza.
Plevlyé	Novi-Varosh, Prepolyé.

TURKISH ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS.

Sanjak.	Kazas.
Uskub	Kachanik, Kuprulu, Kumanovo, Kratovo, Palanka, Istib, Kotchana Osmanié Penchevo), Radovishta.
Prisrend .. .	Ipek, Kalkandelen, Gostivar.
Prishtina .	Preshovo, Gilan, Kachitra, Mitrovitza.
Ipek	Dyakova, Gorazove, Ferizovitch, Trngovishta.
Senitza	Novi-Bazar, Petropolye, Kolashin, Novi Varosh.
Plevlyé . .	Prepolye.

[36561] No. 141

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 140.)

Sir, *Belgrade, August 2, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's vice-consul at Uskub, on the atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Bulgarian troops.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET

Enclosure in No. 141.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Sir R. Paget.

(No. 78.)

Sir, *Uskub, July 29, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, by the courtesy of the Servian authorities, I was enabled yesterday to visit Krivolak, and to interview Mr. Charles Hadkinson, of the Vardar Cultivation there.

I have communicated the purely military information which I was able to gain to Colonel Thompson direct, the following are of more general interest:

Mr. Hadkinson is convinced that it was the Bulgarians who attacked first, and says that they took the Servians completely by surprise. Some 150 or 200 third ban men at Gavrya (nearly one east of Krivolak) were killed in their sleep. It was known in Ishtib two days beforehand that something was being planned, and an efficient Servian system of espionage might easily have come by the news in time to warn the Servians. The Bulgarians were [illegible] of the numbers and dispositions of the Servian troops, which consisted of third ban men only.

Another circumstance which seems to be conclusive proof has recently been pointed out to me. The first of the Montenegrin reinforcements (see my telegram No. 28 of the 25th June) reached here on the 27th, and on the 28th, when the majority, but not the whole, had arrived here a complimentary banquet was given in their honour. It is incredible to me that if the Servians had intended attacking on the night of the 29th–30th, they would have kept these men here for a dinner and a few speeches.

The direct attack on Krivolak was made by Bulgarian regular troops only, but some chetniks subsequently came up the line from Demir Kapu.

Mr. Hadkinson had not himself, with one exception to be mentioned later, been [illegible] of any atrocities, but he has lived in the country for many years knows the people, and has much more expert knowledge to weigh evidence than I have. I have therefore no hesitation in accepting his statements as fact.

He tells me that the Bulgarians attacked a house at Kara Hojali (north of the Vardar Cultivation, and due east of Gradsko station) which was being used as a hospital and flew the Red Cross, and killed the sick and wounded, some fifteen in number, who were inside. The evidence for this is Moslem.

In house I saw Bulgarian regulars bayonet "like a dog" a wounded Servian soldier who begged them for mercy. This man was in uniform, and could not therefore be described as a "franc-tireur." They then turned to Mr. Hadkinson: "English or no English, that is how we will treat you if we find you sheltering any Servians on your farm."

He also tells me that the Bulgarians perpetrated a most disgusting and indescribable oriental form of mutilation on the dead. In some cases men who had themselves been guilty of this admitted the fact to him.

The direct responsibility for these outrages rests on non-commissioned officers and men of the Bulgarian regular army, he knew of no case where a commissioned officer was either a party or a spectator.

There appear to have been no cases of sodomy, and only one doubtful one of rape.

It appears that the officers told their men that they would soon be demobilised, to the great satisfaction of the latter, who were exceedingly homesick; a day or two later they told them that the Servians had attacked, this it was which so inflamed the Bulgarians against the Servians.

While the regular troops were thus venting their spleen on the Servians and trying to conciliate the native Moslems, whose support is courted by both parties (see my despatch No. 24 of the 21st April), the Bulgar chetniks were indulging their old enmity against the Turk; some thirty to forty-five Moslems were massacred by them at Negotin, the local Bulgars having drawn up the proscription lists. Similar lists were drawn up for Krivolak (eighty Turks), and Pepelishta (150), but the Bulgarians were repulsed before these could be put into execution.

It is in my opinion immensely to the credit of the Servian soldiers that when they retook Krivolak they were guilty of no excesses by way of reprisals, in spite of the extreme and recent provocation on the Bulgarian side. Some of the local Turks, however, appear to have taken the chance to massacre Bulgarians, including regulars.

The staff officer who accompanied me to Krivolak remained behind to accompany a German journalist who was going to get information from some Germans who live in that neighbourhood. It may well be, therefore, that the German press or the German Government may come by independent evidence on the subject of atrocities.

Mr. Hadkinson is now of opinion that the Exarchist peasantry of those parts will quickly settle down into being good Servians (this is a change of opinion since my despatch No. 21 of the 24th March), the only thing which seriously alarms them is the increased taxation. But those of them who, from visits to Ishtib, were in a position to compare the incidence of taxation in Bulgarian and Servian occupied territory preferred the latter on that score.

Mr. Hadkinson gives M. Nedich, Servian sub-prefect of Negotin before the attack, a very good character for impartiality, he also says that M. Netkof, Bulgarian Prefect of Ishtib was somewhat unpopular with the local Exarchists, because he would not reproduce the Turkish regime with the Bulgar instead of the Turk as the dominant (and oppressing) race.

I may add, for the benefit of Mr. Hadkinson's relations, that he appeared in excellent health, and to be none the worse for what he had gone through.

I have, &c.
W. D. PECKHAM.

[36566] No. 142.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 416.)

Sir, *Paris, August 6, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a memorandum from the Minister for Foreign Affairs replying to the communication which I addressed to his Excellency, under the instructions conveyed to me by your despatch No. 437 of the 14th ultimo, in regard to the annual dotation made to the late King George of Greece by Great Britain, France, and Russia.

M. Pichon informs me that the French Government concur in the view of His Majesty's Government in regard to the personal character of the dotation, and that they likewise consider the Greek Government to be henceforward under the obligation of paying to the three Powers a total annual sum of 900,000 fr until the complete extinction of the loan of 60,000,000 fr granted by the three Powers on the 7th May, 1832. The French delegate on the International Financial Commission at Athens has therefore been instructed to concert with his British and Russian colleagues with a view to making a declaration to the Greek Government in the sense suggested by you.

M. Pichon reserves his reply as to the settlement of questions concerning the redemption of the loan of 1832 until he has been able to consult with the Minister of Finance.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

Enclosure in No. 142

Memorandum communicated to Sir F. Bertie

A LA date du 16 juillet, l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté britannique a bien voulu communiquer au Département la manière de voir du Gouvernement Royal en ce qui concerne la décision à prendre par les trois Puissances touchant la dotation annuelle faite à Sa Majesté le Roi Georges I.

Son Excellence Sir Francis Bertie rappelle que, par l'article 6 du traité du 17 mars, 1864 la France, l'Angleterre et la Russie ont décidé de faire abandon, en faveur de Sa Majesté le Roi Georges I, chacune d'une somme de 100,000 fr, sur les fonds de la Trésorerie grecque s'étant engagé à payer annuellement à chacune d'elles comme intérêts de l'emprunt de 1832. La note de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre poursuit en rappelant que cette somme constituait une dotation personnelle à Sa Majesté le Roi Georges I, que par suite l'engagement des Puissances a pris fin d'une manière automatique à la mort de ce Souverain et qu'il appartient, dans ces conditions, de faire revivre intégralement les arrangements pris par la Chambre hellénique en 1860, d'après lesquels le Gouvernement Royal s'engageait à effectuer à chacune des trois Puissances le versement d'une somme annuelle de 300,000 fr. Le Gouvernement britannique propose, en conséquence, de charger la Commission internationale de Contrôle des Finances helléniques de faire au Gouvernement Royal hellénique une déclaration dans ce sens.

En remerciant son Excellence Sir Francis Bertie de cette communication, M. S. Pichon s'empresse de lui faire connaître que le Gouvernement de la république partage la manière de voir du Foreign Office sur le caractère personnel de la dotation accordée par les trois Puissances à Sa Majesté le Roi Georges I. Le Gouvernement de la république estime également que le Gouvernement Royal hellénique se trouve désormais dans l'obligation d'effectuer entre les mains des trois Puissances un versement global, annuel et minimum de 900,000 fr jusqu'à l'amortissement complet de l'emprunt de 60,000,000 de francs garanti par les trois Puissances le 7 mai, 1832.

Dans ces conditions, le délégué français à la Commission internationale de Contrôle des Finances helléniques a reçu pour instructions de se concerter avec ses collègues d'Angleterre et de Russie en vue de la déclaration à faire au Gouvernement Royal hellénique dans le sens indiqué par la note de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté britannique.

Cette note prévoit, en outre, le règlement de questions touchant à l'amortissement de l'emprunt de 1832. Le Département se réserve d'y répondre après avoir pris l'avis de M. le Ministre des Finances.

M. Pichon saisit, &c

Paris, le 4 août, 1913.

[36643] No. 143.

Tewfik Pasha to Sir L. Mallet.—(Received August 8.)

(Particulière.) *Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres. le 6 août*, 1913.

Mon cher Sir Louis,

ME référant à notre conversation de tout à l'heure, je m'empresse de vous communiquer les renseignements officiels qui m'ont été transmis au sujet des incidents de Rodosto —

Le lundi 14 juillet dernier, dans l'intervalle entre l'évacuation par l'armée bulgare et l'établissement de l'autorité militaire ottomane, certains habitants chrétiens de Rodosto, Marabolu et Malgara ont été l'objet de la vengeance d'une partie de la population musulmane qui se trouvait dans un état d'exaspération à la suite des atrocités et des mauvais traitements dont leurs coreligionnaires furent victimes de la part de leurs compatriotes chrétiens de connivence avec les comitadjis bulgares.

Cet état de choses regrettable ne dura que vingt-quatre heures, et l'ordre et la tranquillité furent aussitôt rétablis dès l'arrivée des troupes Impériales. Un état de

siège fut proclamé et une cour martiale instituée sur les lieux procéda immédiatement à une enquête sévère en vue d'arrêter et de punir les coupables. De plus, une autre commission extraordinaire composée de fonctionnaires civils, judiciaires et militaires, dont une partie chrétiens, a été immédiatement envoyée sur les lieux pour accélérer les poursuites et condamner les coupables; un crédit de £ T. 5,000 fut également mis à sa disposition pour secourir immédiatement les éprouvés.

Voilà à quoi se réduisent ces malheureux incidents, qui n'ont plus eu de suite après les mesures énergiques prises par les autorités ottomanes. D'ailleurs, les journaux anglais ont publié récemment des télégrammes de leurs correspondants annonçant que, entre autres, un des principaux fauteurs des troubles, un certain Hadji Chériff Bey, notable de Tchorlou, avait été jugé coupable et exécuté avec d'autres de ses complices.

Je ne manquerai pas d'écrire aussi à Constantinople pour y attirer l'attention du Gouvernement et demander de plus amples renseignements sur ces déplorables incidents

Bien sincèrement à vous
TEWFIK

[36631] No. 144.

M. Voinovitch to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

Légation Royale de Montenegro, Londres, le 7 août, 1913.

M. le Ministre,

EN me référant à la lettre adressée à Sir A. Nicolson et aux documents que je l'avais prié de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier, M. le Ministre, de vouloir bien prendre en considération l'état déplorable dans lequel le Monténégro se trouve par suite de la délimitation de l'Albanie du nord

Si on n'apporte pas un remède à une situation que le peuple monténégrin considère comme intolérable, elle ne pourra que s'aggraver et compromettre une paix dont on ressent partout l'urgent besoin.

Que le Gouvernement Royal est respectueux de la décision des Grandes Puissances, il ne l'a que trop prouvé, à ses dépens, par l'évacuation de Scutari et du territoire albanais tout entier. »

Il croit avoir donné par là une preuve manifeste de son désir de poursuivre ses légitimes revendications nationales, non pas par la violence, mais en faisant valoir devant l'Europe, par la légalité, le bien-fondé de ses argumentations, qu'il a inutilement cherché à faire prévaloir dès le mois de décembre 1912.

On a fixé les frontières de l'Albanie du nord sans le consulter, sans admettre la moindre de ses revendications, sans recourir à l'avis préalable d'une commission internationale qui aurait puisé sur place la conviction qu'il fallait empêcher à tout prix les graves fautes du Traité de Berlin.

En effet, c'est la délimitation de 1878 en Albanie qui prépara le conflit turco-monténégrin, en entretenant pendant trente ans un état de guerre latent sur les mêmes frontières

En faisant un appel suprême aux sentiments de justice de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de la prier, au nom de mon Gouvernement, de provoquer une modification de la frontière nord de l'Albanie dans le sens indiqué dans nos mémorandums, et, dans tous les cas, de vouloir bien demander à la conférence des Ambassadeurs de proposer aux Gouvernements respectifs de donner à la commission de délimitation l'instruction formelle de s'inspirer des nécessités locales du Monténégro, notamment pour favoriser les travaux de dessèchement et d'irrigation pour lesquels les Puissances ont promis leur concours.

Je saisis, &c.
L. VOÏNOVITCH

[36570] No. 145.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 336.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 7, 1913.*

I GATHER from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that peace will be signed in Bucharest to-day, and that Bulgaria will proceed to demobilise immediately.

[36604] No. 146.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

[By Post.]

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Paris, August 7, 1913.*

ALBANIAN frontier and islands.

The French Minister for Foreign Affairs being occupied, Mr. Carnegie saw the Political Director, and spoke to him in the sense of your telegram No. 302 of yesterday. The Political Director stated that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs had spoken very seriously to the Italian Ambassador yesterday about the islands. After some discussion the following formula for a declaration from Italy had been drawn up, which the French Minister for Foreign Affairs considered satisfactory, and which the Italian Ambassador undertook to recommend to his Government.—(End of R.)

"L'Italie s'engagerait, premièrement, à évacuer les îles du Dodécanèse, et deuxièmement, à ne pas faire d'objections au sujet de l'attribution de ces îles lorsque les Puissances décideront cette attribution."

(R.) The Italian Ambassador objected to any mention of Greece being made in the proposed declaration, and the French Minister for Foreign Affairs did not insist.

[36614] No. 147.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 107. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, August 7, 1913.*

MR. CARNEGIE was informed this evening by M. Paléologue that the intentions of Italy with regard to the Ægean islands in her occupation were causing considerable anxiety to M. [illegible], who had learnt that Italy meant to retain them if possible. M. Paléologue derived his information from communications passing between Rome and Berlin (see Mr. Carnegie's telegram No. 81, Secret, of the 21st June).

[illegible] gathered [illegible] or other until Balkan affairs had been settled, and would then remain in occupation of the islands in the [illegible] fear of reopening the Eastern question would prevent the Powers from interfering in what might be considered a *fait accompli*.

[36605] No. 148.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

[By Post.]

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Paris, August 7, 1913.*

THE Political Director told Mr. Carnegie this afternoon that the Russian Ambassador had just informed him that the Russian and Austrian Ministers at Bucharest had been instructed to state to the Roumanian Government that the newly-signed treaty of peace would have to be revised by Russia and Austria.

The Political Director had expressed to the Russian Ambassador his regret at the action of Russia which he considered entirely unnecessary. He had said that he was surprised that the Russian Government had taken this step without having previously consulted or notified their intention to the French Government.

[36705] No. 149.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 291.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 8, 1913.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs told the Turkish Ambassador yesterday that, whatever the other Powers might do, Russia would not change her attitude, and would never allow Turkey to retain possession of Adrianople.

His Excellency once more takes a pessimistic view of the situation.

[36668] No. 150.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 167.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Bucharest, August 8, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 44 of 7th August.

Minister for Foreign Affairs asks me to express to you his warm thanks for your congratulations.

[36673] No. 151.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Bucharest, August 8, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 162 of 7th August.

Terms of armistice concluded yesterday include the immediate withdrawal of the troops of the signatory Powers to within the new frontiers. Exception is made in the case of Roumania, owing, I believe, to cholera among the Roumanian troops.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[36718] No. 152.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 8, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 232 of 6th August.

Instructions have been sent to Vienna in the sense desired, subject to Ministerial telegraphic approval. Secretary-General observed that in questions regarding Albania Italy and Austria were bound by a positive formal agreement to support each other mutually, but when there was danger of breaking up European concert Italian Government considered it legitimate to press their ally to give way.

[36720] No. 153.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 8, 1913.*

SECRETARY-GENERAL informed me this morning that Italy has maintained neutral attitude as regards ultimate disposal of Cavalla. They had caused a note to be inserted in semi-official press to the effect that Italy was rather disposed to consider question on ethnographic basis. On the other hand, he has been informed that Austrian reserves in favour of Bulgaria include island of Thasos.

[36713] No. 154.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 397.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 8, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 383 of 7th August: Rodosto.

I have no moral doubt of general truth of reports I have sent in. From *ensemble* of my information I gather that, as troops advanced through any particular district or town, volunteer troops, mostly Kurdish Lazes, &c., remained behind to pillage, and were joined by local Moslems and returning refugees. Neither during their occupation of these districts nor during evacuation do Bulgarians appear to have been guilty of any serious excesses, but there was systematised pillage on large scale, and alleged exasperation has been largely provoked by accounts of Bulgarian atrocities committed elsewhere, so sedulously circulated by Government press.

Order was restored within twenty-four hours in Rodosto town only; excesses did not commence elsewhere till two days later, *e.g.* at Malgara.

Result and probably also object of proclamation of state of siege was to render travelling impossible and to prevent news being obtained.

If money has been voted for relief, it remains to be seen how much will reach Christians.

Hafiz Shereef and another Moslem were condemned to death, but so far as I am aware, sentence has not been carried out. If it had been local press would have made great point of it.

A few days ago 500 refugees from Ipsala and Keshan, mostly Greek women and children, but with a few Bulgarians, were reported by vice-consul at Dardanelles to have reached Bulair. This would seem to connote disappearance of considerable number of males. Œcumenical Patriarch has brought case to notice of Government, which has sent a ship to convey refugees to Constantinople.

[36715] No. 155.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 8, 1913.*

YOUR telegrams Nos. 115 and 116 of 30th July: Joint representations.

The French Minister has as yet no instructions.

The Russian Minister has instructions, but seemed to deprecate pressing the Servian Government to evacuate localities in Albania still occupied by their troops until principality is established (see Sir R. Paget's telegram No. 184 of 24th July and my telegram No. 191 of yesterday).

(Confidential.)

I gathered from a telegram the Russian Minister read to me as addressed by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Russian Ambassador at London that the former is inclined to share this view, but is nevertheless unwilling to do anything which might destroy harmonious representations.

[36360] No. 156.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 8, 1913.*

TURKISH Government state that Turkish prisoners at Stara Zagora have been massacred by Bulgarians. Press telegrams admit that something has happened there.

Please bring to notice of Bulgarian Government, and ask whether report is true.
(End of R.)

Have you any independent source of ascertaining the facts?

[35871] No. 157.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 387.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 8, 1913.*

YOUR despatch No. 678 of 28th July.

If you have not already done so, you should bring the substance of vice-consul's despatches to the knowledge of the Grand Vizier, informing him of the language that Sir H. Bax-Ironside was instructed to hold to the Bulgarian Government in the case of outrages by Bulgarians (see my telegram No. 154 of 14th July to him), and saying that we regret to be obliged to say the same to the Turkish Government.

[36539] No. 158.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 390.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 8, 1913.*

AS long as Turks remain quiet after occupation of Adrianople there is a prospect that the Powers will in time put before Turkey some proposition that will enable her to withdraw from Adrianople on very favourable terms. This prospect will be entirely destroyed if Turkey proceeds to active steps against Bulgaria. Information has given rise to apprehension, and further representation by the Powers may be proposed at Constantinople. If you are approached by any of your colleagues you may inform them of this telegram to you, and say that you are authorised if your colleagues are instructed to join in a representation on this or similar lines.

[37169] No. 159.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 384.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 8, 1913.*

After [illegible] Austrian Ambassador left communication waiving some points and modifying others of the previous Austrian conditions for acceptance of international commission for South Albanian frontier. It is tiresome that Austria still insists on any details, but after tracing on the map the line defined by Austrian Ambassador, I observe that it leaves the town of Argyrocastro to the decision of the commission, and does not appear to prejudice in advance the decision regarding any points of importance except Styles and Koritza.

The Austrian stipulation about Koutzo-Vlachs was the only one to which I saw objection of importance, and a suggestion modifying the Austrian proposal was made at the *réunion*.

I think this amendment will be accepted by Austria provided no other objection is taken. It is very important not to let any small difference prevent an agreement at the last *réunion*, which is to be held on Monday, and I hope French Ambassador may be authorised to agree to the Austrian draft, if Austrian Ambassador accepts the amended condition about Koutzo-Vlachs.

You should inform Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[36546] No. 160.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 235.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 8, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 132 of 7th August.

At the *réunion* to-day the Italian Ambassador was without instructions.

The French Ambassador proposed the formula: "L'Italie laisse aux Puissances le soin de se prononcer sur l'attribution du Dodecanese sans élever d'objections contre la décision prise d'un commun accord entre les six Puissances."

This, or the formula given in Sir F. Bertie's telegram No. 106 of 7th August, repeated to you, should entirely meet Italian objection stated in your telegram No. 132 of 7th August.

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* Also to Sir G. Buchanan (No. 582), *mutatis mutandis*.

[36530] No. 161.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F Elliot.

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 8, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 148 of 7th August.

You should point out to Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs that partial leakage of confidential proceedings at *réunion* is generally misleading, even when technically accurate.

It was not my proposal originally that Thasos should go to Bulgaria. It was agreed to on the proposal of another Power last December, and I have simply carried it forward as a previous decision of the *réunion*. As a matter of fact, I have stated that I supposed the decision about Thasos would have to be reconsidered in connection with Cavalla, but that I would not reopen the old decision at the *réunion* now, as we are not considering question of Cavalla in London.

[36544] No. 162

Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville.

(No. 299.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 8, 1913*

YOUR telegram No. 130 of 7th August.

Course now preferred by Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs will only be possible if Turkey does not take further active steps against Bulgaria, and I doubt Bulgaria being able alone to recover anything now from Turkey.

As to Treaty of Bucharest, I do not think all the Powers will confirm it without modification or discussion of any point, but I do not propose to suggest any change

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[37169] No. 163.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F Cartwright.[*]

(No. 160.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 8, 1913.*

THE following is the record of the proceedings at the *réunion* of Ambassadors to-day :—

"L'Ambassadeur de France raconte à la réunion un entretien entre M. Pichon et l'Ambassadeur d'Italie à Paris, en date du 6 courant, d'où il résulte que le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de France a donné son assentiment à l'article 5 de la formule proposée par Sir E. Grey le 1er août et disant qu'au moment du règlement final les Puissances décideront du sort des îles occupées par l'Italie. Cet assentiment est à condition que l'Italie laisse aux Puissances le soin de se prononcer sur l'attribution du Dodécanèse sans élever d'objection contre la décision prise d'un commun accord entre les six Puissances.

"L'Ambassadeur d'Italie dit qu'il est sans instructions et qu'il ne peut se prononcer à ce sujet.

"Le Comte Mensdorff fait la communication suivante :—

Le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal fait dépendre son assentiment à la nomination d'une Commission internationale, à laquelle la délimitation de la frontière du sud de l'Albanie serait confiée, des points suivants :—

"'1. Les territoires sur lesquels s'étendront les travaux de la commission ne peuvent rester indéterminés. Ses limites seront, à l'ouest, les montagnes séparant la région côtière, attribuée à l'Albanie, jusqu'à Phtelia, de la vallée d'Argyrokastro. Au nord-est, la ligne frontière de l'ancien caza ottoman de Koritza. Entre ces deux régions la ligne indiquée dans le memorandum présenté par M. Venizélos à la réunion formera la limite septentrionale des travaux de la commission, tandis qu'au sud et sud-est ceux-ci s'étendront jusqu'à la ligne proposée par l'Autriche-Hongrie.

"'2. Il est dès à présent établi que la région côtière jusqu'à Phtelia, y compris l'île de Sasseno, la région située au nord de la ligne grecque, ainsi que l'ancien caza

[*] Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 501), Earl Granville (No. 252), Sir R. Rodd (No. 201), and Sir G. Buchanan (No. 276).

ottoman de Koritza, avec la rive ouest et sud du lac d Ochrida, s'étendant du village de Lin jusqu'au monastère de Sveti Naoum, font intégralement partie de l Albanie

"'3. La commission commencera ses travaux le 1er septembre et les terminera le 30 novembre, année courante.

"'4. Pour la conduite de ses travaux, la commission procédera par sections en tenant compte de la conformation naturelle des vallées

"'5. La délimitation sera faite sur des bases ethnographiques et géographiques ; pour les constatations ethnographiques on établira la langue maternelle de la population, savoir la langue parlée dans les familles, la commission ne tiendra aucun compte des tentatives de plébiscite ou d'autres manifestations politiques.

"'6. Quant au district habité par des Valaques, la commission aura à constater leur nationalité La question de l'attribution, soit à l'Albanie, soit à la Grèce, formera l'objet d'une entente directe entre la Grèce et la Roumanie.

"'7. Un mois, au plus tard, après la clôture des travaux de la commission aura lieu l'évacuation par les troupes grecques des territoires attribués à l'Albanie.'

"Le Marquis Imperiali et le Prince Lichnowsky appuient cette communication.

"L'Ambassadeur de France et l'Ambassadeur de Russie se réservent de consulter leurs Gouvernements sur cette communication

"Sur l'article 6, Sir E. Grey fait observer qu'il enlève aux Puissances la délimitation de la région habitée par les Koutzo-Valaques et la remet à la Grèce et à la Roumanie. Si, comme il a déjà proposé, on peut laisser ces deux Puissances s'entendre directement sur les garanties à donner aux populations de cette région, il convient de laisser la question de délimitation territoriale entre les mains des Puissances. Il propose, en conséquence, pour l'article 6 la rédaction suivante :—

"'Quant au district habité par des Koutzo-Valaques, la commission aura à constater leur nationalité. L'attribution, soit à l'Albanie, soit à la Grèce, appartiendra à la décision des Puissances après examen du rapport de la Commission internationale. Quant aux garanties à donner aux populations koutzo-valaques, elles feront l'objet d'une entente directe entre la Grèce et la Roumanie.'

'L'Ambassadeur de Russie et l'Ambassadeur d'Autriche font remarquer que l'omission de Thasos dans l'avis émis à la dernière réunion ne signifie pas que cette île est *ipso facto* abandonnée à la Grèce

"Sir E. Grey rappelle qu'au mois de décembre dernier Thasos a été attribuée à la Bulgarie, mais pour le cas où les Puissances auraient à s'occuper du sort de Cavalla il fait observer qu'il y aurait lieu de considérer à nouveau la situation de cette île.

"L'Ambassadeur de France dit que son Gouvernement est d'avis que la possession de Thasos dépend de celle de Cavalla."

The Austrian Ambassador made the following communication :—

"Le libre accès aux marchés de Djakova et de Dibra est assuré aux habitants des districts limitrophes de l Albanie, ces deux villes ayant servi de tout temps auxdits habitants de marchés indispensables pour leur existence économique. Ils pourront donc venir dans ces villes, apporter leurs produits pour les y vendre et y acheter les articles de leurs besoins sans qu'une restriction quelconque leur soit imposée ou qu'on fasse dépendre ce libre accès de conditions quelconques. Il est bien entendu qu'ils auront à se conformer aux lois et aux règlements douaniers et de police en vigueur."

No one raised any objection to it, and there was a general opinion that the *réunion* had previously come to some resolution like it.

Finally, I communicated the following telegram from Admiral Burney at Scutari to the Admiralty, dated the 4th instant :—

"No flag at present exists for Albanian craft at sea. For this reason I would suggest the necessity of a recognised flag for Albania as soon as this can be arranged.

"After consultation with the other members of the commission, who are telegraphing to their Governments in the same sense, I would recommend the general official recognition of the flag at present popularly recognised as Albanian, i.e., a red field with black eagle(s)."

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[35640] No. 164

Sir Edward Grey to Count de Salis.

(No. 9)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 8, 1913.*

COUNT VOINOVITCH called at this office on the 31st ultimo, chiefly with the object of explaining that, in the interests of future peace, it was essential that the northern and the north-eastern frontier of Albania should be materially modified, in order to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of Montenegro.

Among other changes which he instanced as necessary, he said that the Clementi clan must go to Montenegro and that the Clementis desired nothing better.

Sir A. Nicolson, who received Count Voinovitch, told him that he should not be under any illusions on the subject, and that it was certain that the Powers would never entertain a proposal to transfer a clan like the Clementi to Montenegro, or, indeed, that they would agree to any really serious modification of the frontier.

Count Voinovitch asked whether he might send in a memorandum on the subject. He was told that he might do so if he wished, but was warned that it would have no effect.

I transmit to you herewith copies of a letter since received from Count Voinovitch enclosing two memoranda, in which arguments are advanced in favour of a change of the frontier agreed on.*

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[36758] No. 165.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 186. Confidential.)
Sir, *Athens, August 2, 1913.*

IN my telegram No. 146 of to-day, I reported that the German, as well as the Russian and French Ministers, was strongly in favour of the retention of Cavalla by Greece. Count Quadt, who makes no secret of his personal dislike of Athens and its inhabitants, has throughout the hostilities against Bulgaria maintained an impartial attitude with, perhaps, a slight bias in favour of Greek aspirations. The German Emperor, I understand, continues to send his sister, Queen Sophie, dithyrambic telegrams of congratulation on at every fresh victory of King Constantine.

On the other hand, the reserved and, as M. Coromilas calls it, "sphinxlike" attitude maintained by you, Sir, for many weeks past converts to this impressionable people the idea of unfriendliness in their cause, and induces them to listen to the blandishments of more gushing though less disinterested partisans. Whether Bulgaria or Greece owns Cavalla is to us a matter of indifference, but if our voice were given in favour of the former we should lose such popularity as we possess here, and should be classed with Italy as an opponent of legitimate Greek expansion. Even M. Venizelos, naturally inclined as he is towards the Triple *Entente*, could not but be affected by our attitude, notwithstanding what you are doing for Greece in the matter of the islands, of which I do not know whether he is aware or not.

I should not have spoken in my telegram of the Cavalla district being "exclusively Greek," there being a considerable Mussulman population, to whom indeed, I understand, the most successful tobacco cultivation is due.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

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* Not printed.

[36752] No. 166.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 418.)
Sir, *Paris, August 7, 1913.*

THE reported conclusion of peace by the delegates of the Balkan States assembled at Bucharest is warmly welcomed by the French press, and on all sides satisfaction is expressed at the successful issue of the difficult negotiations which have been conducted there. Credit is given to Servia and Greece for the moderation which they have shown in regard to their territorial claims after a victorious campaign, but the highest praise is reserved for Roumania, no less for the skilful and masterly manner in which she has directed the labours of the Peace Conference, than for the temperate use which she has made of her preponderant military position.

For the past few days some uneasiness has been manifested in the more influential French newspapers in regard to the reported intention of certain Powers to claim the right to revise the terms of the treaty of peace which might be concluded at Bucharest. Allowance was made for the fact that the reservation of such a right by the Powers would facilitate the task of the Bulgarian delegates in making concessions sufficient to ensure the restoration of peace, but the feeling was expressed that the Powers, by lending themselves to such a course, would be serving the particular interests of Austria, and be risking a departure from the policy of non-intervention by which the Concert of Europe was guided. French opinion, it was stated, was frankly averse from such a claim being put forward. A copy of the leading article from the issue of the "Temps" of to-day's date, which deals especially with this subject, is enclosed herein.*

The "Temps" in its leading article this evening, copy of which I have the honour also to transmit to you herewith,* reverts to the subject. England and Austria, it is stated, are the two Powers which started the movement in favour of revising the treaty, but the British note on the subject has been withdrawn, and it is to be hoped that this wise example will be followed by all concerned. Germany and France are hostile to revision, Italy declares with commendable frankness that she does not insist on it, Russia appears to be coming round to the German and French point of view, Austria will no doubt follow suit. Fortunately the negotiators at Bucharest, the article continues, have not awaited the settlement of the question of Adrianople. As the Powers, as well as the Balkan States, are in agreement on the subject, the matter must sooner or later, by force or by persuasion, be settled in Bulgaria's favour.

There is still, however, as I informed you in my despatch No. 403 of the 30th ultimo, a current of opinion in the French press which advocates the retention of Adrianople by the Turks, and since that date M. François Delaunde, writing in the "Paris-Journal," has made some capital out of the argument that Catholic interests in Eastern Europe, which are identical with those of France, will be better safeguarded under Moslem rule than under the Bulgarian Exarchate.

I have, &c.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

[36852] No. 167.

Tewfik Pasha to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à Sir E. Grey, et a l'honneur d'informer son Excellence qu'il est récemment parvenu à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte qu'une des Puissances aurait fait des démarches pressantes auprès du Cabinet de Rome en vue d'obtenir du Gouvernement Royal une déclaration pouvant favoriser l'abandon à la Grèce des îles de la mer Égée détenues par l'Italie.

Cette même Puissance aurait aussi entrepris des démarches analogues auprès des autres Cabinets pour les amener à adopter le même point de vue.

D'ordre du Gouvernement Impérial, Tewfik Pacha s'empresse de porter à la haute connaissance de son Excellence Sir E. Grey que l'Italie détient ces îles en vertu du Traité de Lausanne, qui stipule également leur restitution à la Turquie aussitôt que le Gouvernement Impérial aura rempli certains engagements consignés dans le même

* Not printed.

traité. Or, l'Italie, qui n'est que dépositaire de ces îles, ne peut prendre aucun engagement à leur sujet sans le consentement préalable du Gouvernement Impérial. Car autrement elle s'exposerait à la dénonciation du Traité de Lausanne de la part du Gouvernement Impérial, qui réclamerait conséquemment ses droits sur la Cyrénaïque. Il en résulte donc nécessairement que ni les Cabinets, ni la conférence des Ambassadeurs ne s'occupent de cette question, dont le sort est lié aux dispositions d'un traité solennel conclu antérieurement au conflit actuel, et qui par conséquent ne peut avoir aucune corrélation avec les questions soulevées par la guerre balkanique.

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres,
le 8 août, 1913.

[37133] No. 168.

Memorandum communicated by M. de Fleuriau, August 9, 1913.

TIMBRES fiscaux ottomans saisis par les Gouvernements grecs et bulgares.

L'Ambassadeur de Turquie à Paris avait demandé les bons offices du Gouvernement français en vue d'obtenir des Gouvernements grec et bulgare la restitution des timbres fiscaux ottomans saisis au cours de la guerre balkanique dans les agences de la Banque ottomane à Drama, Dédéagatch et Salonique, le Gouvernement grec s'est refusé à cette restitution.

Le jurisconsulte du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a émis l'avis que, aux termes de l'article 53 du règlement de la Haye de 1907 sur le droit de la guerre, le Gouvernement grec avait le droit de s'approprier ces timbres fiscaux et autres papiers représentant la valeur de certains revenus établis par le Gouvernement ottoman et d'en percevoir le profit dans les territoires occupés par lui, mais que le Gouvernement grec n'aurait pas le droit d'user de ces timbres fiscaux en les négociant hors des territoires occupés, et notamment en Turquie d'Asie. C'est en ce sens que le Ministre de France à Athènes a été invité à s'exprimer.

Ambassade de France, Londres,
le 8 août, 1913.

[37134] No. 169.

Note communicated by M. de Fleuriau, August 9, 1913.

D'APRÈS une communication de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à Paris, le Gouvernement ottoman aurait demandé au Cabinet de Bruxelles que des fonctionnaires belges des Départements de la Justice, des Travaux publics et de l'Agriculture fussent mis à la disposition de l'inspecteur général ottoman du second secteur.

M. Pichon ne verrait pas, en principe, d'inconvénients à l'emploi de fonctionnaires belges dans le secteur de Smyrne.

Ambassade de France, Londres,
le 8 août, 1913.

[36897] No. 170.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 9.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 9, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of three telegrams,* dated the 8th instant, from Vice-Admiral Burney.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

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* For third enclosure, see No. 205.

Enclosure 1 in No. 170.

Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney.

(Telegraphic.) *August 8, 1913.*

THE international forces at Scutari are now entirely military. French seamen re-embarked to-day, French troops having arrived yesterday.

Enclosure 2 in No. 170.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *August 8, 1913.*

MERDITE country and Orosh still occupied by Servians. Each of the members of Commission is telegraphing his Government requesting that Servian troops may be withdrawn from Albania, also that the Servian Government may give guarantees for proper treatment of Albania trade at Djakova, as the Servian officials refuse to allow the Merturi from the vicinity of Albanian Mountains west of Djakova to trade peacefully at that town, their only possible market town, unless they sign a declaration in favour of Servian rule. This they refuse to sign. To-day Merturi chiefs presented themselves to the International Commission at Scutari to demonstrate their distressing circumstances. The people in the district are starving as result of Servian action.

[36784] No. 171.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 339. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 8, 1913.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs is negotiating with the Austrian Minister with a view to obtaining a complete revision of the treaty which will be signed at Bucharest. The present Government rely on Austrian aid, and want to obtain Ishtib and Kochana from Servia, and Cavalla, Serres, Demir Hissar, and large hinterland including Doiran from the Greeks.

They offer in return for Austrian assistance an alliance, well knowing that such would be very unpopular here in spite of temporary anger against Russia.

The Austrian Minister finds himself in a difficulty, as he is well aware that his Government prefer Roumania to Bulgaria. He is urging his Government, however, to obtain a revision of the treaty, and would try to obtain credit for his Government for any advantage Bulgaria might gain thereby.

My Austrian colleague asked me yesterday what my impression was concerning a revision.

The German Minister is not privy to the negotiations now going on.

The King has temporarily thrown himself entirely on the Austrian side in the hope that the present pro-Austrian Cabinet may save his personal position.

[36847] No. 172.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 340.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, August 8, 1913.*

CONSTANTINOPLE telegram No. 387 of 5th August.

Official account states that Turkish prisoners at Stara Zagora, excited by Turkish advance, endeavoured to escape and seize arms. They were shot down in mêlée, and it is said some 500 were killed. Independent account substantially confirms this.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[36915] No. 173.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 341.)
(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Sophia, August 9, 1913.*

IT has been decided to demobilise immediately three oldest classes reserves dismissed from employment.

[36906] No. 174.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 9, 1913.*

IT is expected that peace will be signed to-morrow, that demobilisation will begin on Monday, and that the foreign peace delegates will leave Tuesday or Wednesday. I understand, however, that the Roumanian troops will not be withdrawn from Bulgaria immediately because of the cholera.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[36919] No. 175.

Sir C. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 293.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, August 9, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 582 of 8th August: South Albanian frontier.

Minister for Foreign Affairs said he must look up the previous papers before sending instructions to the Russian Ambassador, but that he hoped to be able to meet your wishes.

[36920] No. 176.

Sir C. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 294.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 9, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 291 of 8th August.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw again this afternoon, informed me that Grand Vizier had told Russian Ambassador that he was powerless, as Enver Bey was master of the situation. His Highness had appealed to Russia, and had said that Sultan was about to send a special mission to the Emperor.

Ambassador had advised him not to, as it was doubtful whether Emperor would receive it.

French Ambassador, who had an interview with Minister for Foreign Affairs immediately before mine, is using all his influence to prevent him taking any precipitate action, and latter's language this afternoon was not quite so precise as previous occasions. He spoke of seizure of Turkish Black Sea ports as amongst measures which Russia might possibly take, but concluded by saying he would do nothing without first coming to an understanding with Austria about Servian frontier.

[36921] No. 177

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 295.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 9, 1913.*

SPEAKING to me this morning on the subject of Adrianople, Minister for Foreign Affairs said that Russian military authorities were strongly opposed to any action in Armenia, as permanent occupation of that province, to which it would inevitably lead,

would be a source of weakness rather than of strength to Russia. Were the Powers, his Excellency contended, to tell Turkey plainly that unless she gave way she would neither obtain 4 per cent. customs increase nor the slightest financial assistance, the whole question would be settled in a week. It was hopeless, however, to expect anything from the Powers. It was France who had placed at Turkey's disposal funds which had enabled her to retake Adrianople, while in certain official circles in England German sympathies were rapidly gaining ground.

I replied that his Excellency need have no anxiety on this point, as His Majesty's Government were as determined as ever to be true to their understanding with Russia, but he must remember that they had to take into account Moslem feeling in India.

Referring next to Treaty of Bucharest, his Excellency expressed the hope that Austria would not try to revise it to the detriment of Servians, as they had really behaved very well. On the other hand, he hoped that Bulgaria might still get Cavalla, though as Russia could not herself use compulsion against Greece she would have to leave it to others to take whatever measures might be necessary to force Greece to abandon it.

I said that, having received no indication of views of His Majesty's Government on the subject of revision, I could not speak in their name. It seemed to me, however, that the three questions of Adrianople, Cavalla, and Servian frontier would have to be considered together. Two courses were open to the Powers—either to leave things as they were, or to come to some decision which they were prepared to impose by force. I did not believe that Turkey would withdraw from Adrianople except under compulsion, and no Power seemed inclined to join Russia in armed intervention to force her to do so. If, however, Russia adopted any isolated action against Turkey she could not complain were Austria to impose her wishes on Servia by some similar action. In order, therefore, to avoid danger of international complications, it seemed to me that Russia ought to come to an understanding with Austria on the whole Balkan situation before embarking on any separate action.

[36914] No. 178.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 9, 1913.*

GREEK Minister for Foreign Affairs is instructing the Greek Minister in London to represent that it is not fair to send a commission of delimitation to Southern Albania with prearranged instructions about Koritza, &c. When the Greek Government offered concession in return for commission of enquiry they were told that commission should enquire and report, not decide. Minister for Foreign Affairs begs that decision as to the Albanian frontier, as well as Ægean islands, may be postponed, and that Greek and Albanian delegates may join commission and explain grounds of respective claims, which may otherwise be judged unheard.

[36913] No. 179.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 398.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 9, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 377 of 5th August.

Austrian Ambassador has received instructions from Vienna to consult his colleagues with a view to obtaining their personal views as to means that might be employed in the event of an unfavourable reply being received to identic communication of 7th August to induce Turkey to evacuate Adrianople, and he gave me to understand that basis of discussion was to be German proposal.

French Ambassador is convinced that French Government will not allow temettu or 4 per cent. customs duties to be used in bargain.

[36928] No. 180.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 9, 1913.*

I READ to Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning your telegram No. 299 of 8th August, after first reading to him my telegram No. 130 of 7th August, which he agreed gave a correct account of his views.

He quite agreed that course of inaction would become impossible if Turkey invaded Bulgaria, but he refused to believe in probability of that event, although he was aware of very large number of Turkish troops now in Thrace. Apart from Turkish offensive action he was quite indifferent as to whether Bulgaria could recover anything from Turkey or not.

As to Treaty of Bucharest, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed great pleasure [illegible] that you would not suggest any change, and authorised me to tell you that he was doing his utmost to prevent Austria taking up too strong a line. He [illegible] again of his fears of isolated action by Russia, and, though he did not say so, evidently hoped that you would do your best to prevent it. He argued that protests and polite diplomatic invitation to Greece to surrender Cavalla would be quite useless unless force were used. He did not see who could use force, and if anybody did it would mean a certain European war. As the Balkan States had invited revision of the treaty, he thought the Powers must agree to revise it, but with tacit understanding that they should accept it without alteration.

[35810] No. 181.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 18[illegible].)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 9, 1913.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador states that Servian troops still occupy bridge of Vezir over Drin, Bastrik Mountain, and pass of Tchafa Morines. This prevents access of Albanian tribes to Djakova market.

Servians are also spreading report that inhabitants of [illegible] Albania will not be allowed to visit market unless they sign petition for Servian nationality.

When your colleagues are similarly instructed, you should request Servian Government to withdraw troops and to allow to Albanians free and unconditional access to Djakova.

[35278] No. 182.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 305.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 9, 1913.*

PREFERENTIAL treatment of Greek goods in Crete.

My telegram to Sir F. Cartwright No. 222 of 16th July.

Austrian Minister has now received instructions, but he and most of his colleagues consider protest would now be too late to be of use. I think that it should be made all the same, and trust that representatives of the Powers may be so instructed.

Sir F. Elliot has been instructed to make protest if his colleagues agree.

Inform Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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* Also to Sir R. Rodd (No. 235), Earl Granville (No. 300), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 586), and Sir F. Cartwright (No. 243).

[35278] No. 183.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 9, 1913.*

YOUR despatch No. 169 of 26th July: Preferential treatment of Greek goods in Crete.

If your colleagues agree, you should make protest all the same.

[36375] No. 184.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 584.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 9, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 288 of 6th August: Armenia.

You may thank M. Sazonof, but add that I most sincerely hope that the Russian Government will take no action which may have consequences involving other Powers without informing His Majesty's Government and the French Government.

[36784] No. 185.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 9, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 339 of 8th August: Balkan settlement.

You will of course maintain attitude of reserve concerning revision.

[36930] No. 186.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 10, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 235 of 8th August.

It is contended here that words "laisser aux Puissances" and "sans élever d'objection" in French formula are incompatible with "prise d'un commun accord," and must mean that Italy pledges herself to sign whatever other Powers agree on. Italian Ambassador will be instructed to accept no formula which leaves any doubt as to Italy being on an equal footing with other Powers when it comes to settling eventual fate of the islands, to suggest modifications on these lines and addition of some words confirming integrity of Asiatic Turkey. This addition is based on assumption that if Turks believe all hope excluded of recovering any of the islands they will delay indefinitely fulfilment of the Italian peace treaty, preferring that they should remain in Italian occupation to transfer to Greece.

[36916] No. 187.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 10, 1913.*

TREATY of peace was signed this morning. Article 6 stipulates that Bulgaria shall begin demobilisation within twenty-four hours of the signature of the treaty, and article 7 that troops of the other signatories shall commence evacuation of Bulgarian territory as soon as Bulgarian demobilisation is completed. Evacuation is not to take more than a fortnight (I regret that information given in my telegram No. 168 of 8th August, though authority was irreproachable, was incorrect).

Exchange of ratifications is to be effected within a fortnight of treaty.

(Sent to Athens, Sophia, and Belgrade.)

[36917] No. 188.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 10, 1913.*

AMONGST engagements accessory to treaty of peace are two taken respectively by Greece and Servia to accord Kutzo-Vlachs in the two countries the same privileges as those which were prescribed by the St. Petersburgh protocol and which Bulgaria has accorded to the Kutzo-Vlachs in Bulgaria.

[37018] No. 189.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 193. Confidential.)
Sir, *Posilipo, July 27, 1913.*

ON the receipt of your telegram No. 225 of the 25th instant, announcing the provisional suspension of the reunions of Ambassadors, I called at the Italian Foreign Office to communicate its substance. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is still absent, and the Under-Secretary of State has just left to join him at Finggi. The Secretary-General, however, who has been spending a week with the Minister, returned last evening and I was obliged to make him my intermediary.

This led to a conversation which was, I think, somewhat enlightening as to the present attitude of Italy, and I have therefore reported the main points by telegraph. But there was more than could well be telegraphed, and I propose therefore to recapitulate the observations and arguments put forward by Signor de Martino, which rather indicate a conscious perplexity how best to justify the attitude adopted.

He began by displaying some disappointment at the prospect of a postponement of a settlement regarding the southern frontier of Albania, on which he hoped a practical agreement had been arrived at.

This agreement was, however, obviously contingent on an agreement as regards the Ægean Islands. He, nevertheless, rather demurred to the implication that Italy was responsible for the delay, and pointed out that it was the Treaty of Lausanne which made her reservation of the island question inevitable, regretting that that point was not alluded to in the communication which I had made to him. I observed in the first place that the message I had conveyed to him did not offer any criticism of any one body of Italy; it merely recorded the fact that the reservation of one point would delay the settlement of the other. The position of Italy under the Treaty of Lausanne had been duly laid before the reunion of Ambassadors, but that had not prevented the Italian Ambassador from entering into discussions, the purport of which was that the transfer of the islands, including those occupied by Italy, to Greece might be utilised as an inducement to the latter to withdraw from the territory she had occupied south of Albania, so as to leave the coast north of Cape Stylos and the district of Koritza to the new principality, in accordance with the claims of Italy and Austria-Hungary. If the opposition of some Powers to the line insisted on by Italy had been withdrawn, it was, I thought, under the impression that Italy would not oppose the transfer of the islands to Greece. In so far, therefore, as she now reserved this question there was a new phase.

The Secretary-General could only object that recent developments in the Balkans had apparently created an entirely change of situation. There was now every prospect that Greece would receive large accessions of territory which had not then been contemplated. Why, he asked, should not compensation for Stylos and Koritza be found in giving sanction to the extension of Greece on the mainland coast of the Ægean? I suggested that it seemed difficult to substitute such a transaction for the other for any additional territory which Greece might now acquire would be at the expense of Bulgaria, who had established herself by right of conquest. It was, moreover, as yet by no means clear how far the Powers would allow this diminution of Bulgaria on the Ægean coast.

Signor de Martino then returned to the argument that Turkey claimed, and with good reason, that the transfer of the islands in the immediate vicinity of the coast of Asia Minor would endanger the future status of the Ottoman Empire in Asia, which it

was the common interest of the Powers to uphold. I observed that this argument had been utilised many months ago, but the Powers who had most warmly supported it, and among them Italy, had ceased to urge it when the question arose of how to induce Greece to withdraw from the Corfu Channel. It therefore seemed hardly appropriate to revive it now. He then hazarded the suggestion that the islands actually in Greek occupation, excluding those which Italy was holding, might be offered as a compensation for her withdrawal from the South of Albania, without pausing to reflect that the danger of their vicinity to the Asiatic shore could in some cases be alleged with even greater plausibility than in that of the islands reserved by Italy. I pointed out that such a suggestion rather surprised me as coming from him inasmuch as the Minister for Foreign Affairs had from the first refused to regard the islands as divisible into two separate categories, and had always insisted that they must be discussed as a whole. That was, this true, at a time when it appeared probable that Germany would object to the transfer of Chios and Mitylene to Greece, and the grouping of all the islands together furnished a plausible means of excluding those occupied by Italy from discussion. Signor de Martino, however, contented himself with repeating that the whole situation had been modified by recent events. He repeated with emphasis that Italy did not contemplate retaining any of the islands for herself. It was her object to strengthen Turkey and the future of the Empire which she had in view. The Greeks, he believed, would not greatly resent their restoration to Turkey as they considered that in the future the islands were inevitably destined to fall to them. He felt that France in urging their immediate transfer to the Hellenic Kingdom had her own ends in view, and was not moved by unselfish devotion to the cause of Greece.

I have reported this discussion, which was of a purely friendly and informal character, because of the light which it throws on the difficulty which Italy has encountered in defending the attitude now adopted. It seems to be a good illustration of the principle *qui s'excuse s'accuse*.

As Signor de Martino had referred more than once to the obligations of the Treaty of Lausanne, I ventured to ask him what, under existing circumstances, prevented Italy from at once restoring the islands and withdrawing her military occupation. What points were there in the Treaty of Lausanne which Turkey could be charged with not having yet fulfilled to the best of her ability? He replied that there were still some Turkish troops in Cyrenaica; and when I suggested that it was beyond the powers of the Turkish Government to prevent one or two volunteers from throwing in their lot with the native populations and fighting on their behalf, he rather shifted his ground, and said there had been great delay in coming to terms with Italy as regards the person of the mufti who was to be appointed by the Sultan. But this, he was obliged to admit, had now been settled. The situation in Cyrenaica, however, was not yet cleared up. This is no doubt perfectly true, but it is difficult to see how this responsibility can be visited on Turkey, and the impression that he conveyed was that there had been considerable difficulty in making out a case for the continued occupation of the islands, which, of course, it is not impossible may be prolonged in virtue of a tacit understanding with the Turkish Government.

There are, however, excellent reasons for the reluctance of Italy to withdraw without presuming any such hypotheses.

It is obvious that Italy is now watching the dispute over the frontiers of the territories recently acquired by the Hellenic Kingdom, the sympathies of whose population in Epirus are entirely concentrated. They are keen to perceive as they proceed to organise a formidable armed support from France and they regard the international position as favourable to an antagonistic to the Triple Alliance, and so likely to become a factor of considerable importance in the Mediterranean.

Another consideration, which no doubt carries weight with the Government, is the imminent approach of the elections and the fact that policy indicates the desirability of deferring a definite withdrawal from the islands, which might alienate the support of the Nationalists.

The services of the press are being enlisted in favour of the attitude which Italy has now adopted, and the Roman correspondent of the Milan "Corriere della Sera," who is a deputy, and often obtains suggestions from the Foreign Office, has furnished the issue of to-day with an article, which might well have been dictated by the Secretary-General, on the problems left unsolved by the reunion in London. After laying down that "the problem of the islands nearest to Asia is not unconnected with the problem of the vitality of Turkey in Asia, it is not merely an Hellenic but an international problem," he concludes: "The conference in London may and must deal, from

one point of view at any rate, with the future of Turkey in Asia. The question of the islands, or in any case of some of them, must be essentially taken in hand from this point of view"

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[36028] No. 190.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 197.)
Sir, *Posillipo, July 30, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, in continuation of my telegram No. 119 of the 20th instant, translation of a note which I have just received from the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in regard to the taxes to be levied at Scutari.

In general terms the Italian Government are of the opinion that the war tax of 100 per cent. and the extraordinary taxes on spirit and salt should be abolished, as they press hardly on the already depressed market, but that the receipts from the sale of salt and of fishing permits, being revenues due to the debt administration, should be maintained and paid over to the debt officials.

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

Enclosure in No. 190

Note communicated to Sir R. Rodd by the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

(Translation.)

In a memorandum of the 9th instant the British embassy requested the views of the Government of His Majesty on the following points raised by the British admiral at Scutari:—

1. Whether the extraordinary taxes on spirits and the receipts from the sale of salt and of fishing permits should continue to be paid to the local commissioners of the Ottoman Public Debt.

2. Whether, in the event of extraordinary taxes on spirits continuing to be paid, the war super-tax should also be exacted.

The extraordinary super-tax on spirits was imposed in accordance with a law of the 27th August, 1912, and collected from the 21st September, 1912. It consists of 37½ prs. for every kilogram of spirits (the ordinary tax is just 37½ prs. plus 2½ prs. as a tax on inflammables), of 15 per cent. on spirits manufactured in the town (the ordinary tax is also 15 per cent.), and 5 c. for every kilogram of salt. At present this super-tax is only paid in the form of a deposit. Inasmuch as it is a war tax which bears heavily on the already depressed local market, and as it does not benefit the Ottoman Public Debt, it would seem to the Government of His Majesty that it should be abolished, and also likewise and on logical grounds the special war super-tax of 100 per cent.

On the other hand, the receipts from the sale of salt and from fishing permits, being revenues due to the administration of the public debt, should, in the opinion of the Government of His Majesty, be maintained and handed over to the Commissioners of the Ottoman Public Debt.

The 11 per cent. customs duties on imported spirit, lime, and salt should of course be maintained, and the proceeds placed at the disposal of the International Commission.

Rome, July 29, 1913.

[36030] No. 191.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 199.)
Sir, *Posillipo, August 1, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the semi-official "Tribuna" of this day's date publishes a long editorial article on the Albanian settlement and Italy, which bears evident traces of official inspiration, and tends to confirm the views which I have recently submitted as to the present attitude of Italy with regard to the islands.

The article, referring to the general satisfaction expressed in the foreign press at the results obtained by the *réunion* of Ambassadors in London in dealing with the Albanian problem, enumerates the points with regard to which a settlement has been adopted. It points out, however, that, in one respect, and that a most important one for the new State and a capital one for Italian vital interests, a solution has still to be found. Until the question of the southern frontier has been dealt with satisfactorily, Italian public opinion will scarcely join in the general chorus of satisfaction.

The argument is then once more developed at length that the inclusion of Cape Stylos, the Bay of Ftelia, and the inland territory of Koritza in Albanian territory is indispensable to the security of Italy's position in the Lower Adriatic, and cannot be ignored by the *réunion* without injury to the prestige of Italy in her own home waters. The writer does not show how this is affected by the disposal of Koritza, but he recapitulates the dangers to which the Adriatic coasts of Italy would be exposed if a foreign fleet were established in the Corfu Channel. As regards the future economic prosperity of Albania, the line of the Kalamas would constitute the proper frontier. Italy and Austria have made concessions here out of regard to other Powers, but further concession would be criminal.

The article concludes by stating that a perusal of the foreign, and especially the French, press during the last few days shows that a confusion of mind has arisen. It has been suggested there that the question of the southern frontier of Albania should be treated in connection with that of the Ægean islands occupied by Italy, and that a compromise should be sought on the basis of Italy handing over the islands to Greece, and Greece making ample concessions to Albania.

"Now it is well," the writer contends, "to remember once for all that these problems are entirely diverse, distinct, and independent the one of the other. The question of the islands concerns Italy and Turkey and no one else. An occupation of the islands is a result exclusively arising out of the Italo-Turkish war, and is juridically defined and regulated by the Treaty of Lausanne. The events and the acts in question were anterior to the Balkan coalition which gave rise to the Albanian problem. To confuse these issues can at best be an arbitrary or a strange exercise of international delegation. In fact, in any case, there can be no question, and it is necessary to state that there could be."

I have already in my despatch No. 193, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, called attention to the propaganda which is being made here against the principle of compensating Greece for surrendering occupied territories in the west by facilitating her acquisition of the islands. There is a further tendency in the press to saddle France with the responsibility for advocating this solution, and a growing spirit of irritation against her is very noticeable. As an instance of the methods adopted, I noticed in the Naples "Mattino" of this morning a conspicuous headline announcing that "French comments on the armistice are inspired by conspicuous Italophobia." In the letter-press below the only statement which can be in any way connected with the title is the following:—

The "Temps" in discussing the question of the islands, reveals itself as even more than usually inspired by its affection for Greece, announcing that all the islands of the Ægean, without exception, must be submitted to the decision of the Conference, and that no island must remain in the hands of any one of the Powers."

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[37021] No. 192.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 200.)

Sir, *Posillipo, August 3, 1913.*

IN your despatch No. 192 of the 28th ultimo, you have recorded a conversation with the Italian Ambassador, in the course of which the latter stated that the Turks had still a battalion at Benghazi, and had not fulfilled the terms of the Treaty of Lausanne. In thus alleging the presence there of a Turkish battalion, he seems to have gone a great deal further than did the Secretary-General in the conversation which I have reported in my despatch No. 193, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, when he was obviously not a little embarrassed to find adequate arguments to justify the continuance of Italian occupation in the Ægean. When, moreover, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has been anxious to find reasons for inclining towards the Turkish scale, he has told me that the Turkish Government had done their best to carry out the provisions of the Treaty. The explanation of the repeated inconsistencies of the Italian attitude is, however, sufficiently obvious to need no further elucidation.

Meanwhile the unofficial press campaign against France, to which I have referred in the above-mentioned despatch, continues, especially in the letters to the Turin "Stampa" from its Roman correspondent who is supposed to receive not unprofitable inspiration from Vienna. The Italian public are now being invited to believe that it is France who invented the proposal to hand over the Southern Ægean Islands to Greece as compensation for withdrawing from the Corfu channel, and that France is peremptorily demanding their evacuation by Italy in her desire to be revenged on the latter for opposing the creation of a triangular naval base resting on Toulon, Biserta, and Corfu.

Extravagant as the insinuations may sound, they will probably have their influence on a public which has since the naval incidents during the war with Turkey been predisposed, and since the renewal of the Triple Alliance been encouraged, to regard France as essentially hostile to Italy.

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[37022] No. 193.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 201.)

Sir, *Posillipo, August 5, 1913.*

IN my immediately preceding despatch, I spoke of the polemics of the unofficial press against the attitude of France in the Albanian and kindred questions. Since that despatch was written, however, the semi-official "Tribuna" has taken up the challenge of the "Temps," though in more reserved language than other Italian journals. The following are the most characteristic passages in an article in the issue of to-day's date. After insisting once more on the vital importance to Italy that both banks of the Corfu channel should not be in the hands of the same Power, the *portevoix* of the Consulta writes:—

"Greece began by telling us that, in view of her friendship for Italy, the danger we had indicated was fantastic, but now the 'Temps' does her the bad service of pointing out that France counts on the naval strength of Greece in the event of a naval war with ourselves . . . . There is no new naval agreement regarding the Mediterranean which binds Italy in the Triple Alliance, but Italy naturally turns towards the Powers which most frankly display their friendship for her. In the present instance no one can accuse us of pursuing a triplicist policy.

"The 'Temps' further observes that the French thesis regarding the islands of the Dodecanesos is that of nationalities. We assert that the date of the islands is regulated by a treaty, and the answer given us is that we ought, on behalf of the sacred principle of nationality, to repudiate an international agreement, and, by our own action, to occasion the grave prejudice which the transfer of the islands to Greece would entail in its effect on the rebellion of the Arabs and Bedouins in Cyrenaica."

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[36763] No. 194.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 202.)

Sir, *Posillipo, August 6, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a translation of the editorial in the official "Tribuna," which formed the subject of my telegram No. 131 of to-day's date, on Franco-Italian relations in regard to the questions of the southern frontier of Albania and the Ægean islands.

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

Enclosure in No. 194.

Extract from the "Tribuna" of August 5, 1913.

(Translation.)

THE CONFERENCE OF LONDON IN AGONY.

LAST week we left the Conference of London confronted by the obstacle of the southern boundaries and the Ægean islands.

France held that the two questions should be combined, and consented to recognise Albanian possession of Fteln, on the Corfu Channel, of Argyrocastro and Koritza, on condition that Italy should make concessions in the Dodecanese and the Ægean islands. Not at once, we were told by France, but as soon as the last Turkish soldiers shall have left Cyrenaica. As though Turkey could have any further interest in carrying out the terms of the Treaty of London after our renunciation of the only sanction which was assured to us.

Italy, of course, had not moved, we will not say from her point of view, but from her duty as a loyal nation accustomed to maintain its pacts. The question of the Dodecanese, observed its representative, is not an international question, or even a result of the Balkan war. It is a question already settled between Italy and Turkey, which Italy cannot on her side reopen.

France had replied that if Italy did not give way on the question of the islands, she, for her part, refused to ratify the Southern Albanian frontier which had been proposed to the Conference.

For this reason the Conference was adjourned till to-day. And it is realised that to-day a resolution of some sort must be taken, especially as Sir E. Grey has announced that the *réunions* of the Ambassadors have already been unduly prolonged.

Were we to base ourselves on the tone of the French newspapers, and if we could be sure that they represented the views of their Government, a forecast would be easy. France will insist to-day on the combination of the two questions, southern frontier and islands; Italy will repeat her declaration, and the Conference will be put off *sine die*. This means that the Conference will be dissolved, and Italy will have to settle directly with Greece questions that interest her.

But we prefer to think that France will give way to the reasonableness of our objections which we are obliging ourselves to repeat, beyond their literal extent, as necessary for the strategic defence of the Otranto Channel on the one hand, the obligation to observe a treaty on the other.

[37060] No. 195.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 182.)

Sir, *Athens, August 5, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 81 of the 17th April I have the honour to report that by a Ministerial order, dated the 21st ultimo, and published in the "Gazette" of the 1st instant, the following raw materials have been added to the list of those which, being free of duty on importation into Greece, are also to be admitted from abroad duty free in the occupied territories:—

Class 41A of the Greek tariff: Raw flax.
Class 41c of the Greek tariff: Raw hemp in general.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[36970] No. 196.

Sir G Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 242.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, August 7, 1913.*

AS I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 285 of the 3rd instant, the Russian Government has not yet made up its mind as to the measures which it may eventually be forced to take to secure the evacuation of Adrianople by the Turks. It is still quite determined that they cannot be left in possession of that town, but neither at the audience which M. Sazonof had with the Emperor on the 29th of last month, nor at the Council of Ministers which was held two days later, was any decision arrived at as to how this end is to be attained. On my questioning M. Sazonof on the subject, his Excellency frankly admitted that he could not tell me what the Russian Government would do as he did not know himself. While repeating the views which he has throughout expressed on the subject, and while once more declaring that the Turks would have to go, he did so in far less categorical terms than on previous occasions. He spoke rather of persuasive than of coercive measures, and mentioned among the various inducements, with which it might be possible to purchase Turkey's renunciation of her claim to Adrianople, Russia's consent to the 4 per cent. customs increase.

From the altered tone of his Excellency's language, and from what I hear from other sources, I feel convinced that the Russian Government will do all that they can to avoid having recourse to isolated action save in the very last resort. They will in any case await the result of the negotiations now proceeding at Bucharest in the hope that when peace is once more restored between the Balkan States Turkey will be more inclined to listen to the friendly counsels of the Powers. They are quite alive to the fact that any isolated action which they may take at the present moment will furnish Austria with a pretext for initiating some similar action in the direction of the sanjak, and both the Emperor and his Ministers desire above all things else to avoid international complications. The president of the Council, moreover, is far too careful a guardian of the national exchequer to embark on a policy that might adversely affect the brilliant position which Russian finances have attained during the past few years.

There is also another consideration which may give the Russian Government pause; and that is the fear that any action that they may take against Turkey will be followed by the closing of the Dardanelles. In view of the harvest which is now in progress this would inflict such serious loss on the grain trade that the Government might be compelled to adopt measures which would carry them further than they wish to go at present. A telegram published in the press a few days ago, announcing that the passage of vessels through the Straits had been stopped, caused, as M. Sazonof informed me, a veritable panic in Government circles. A communiqué was subsequently published explaining the reasons for this temporary measure and stating that the Government were nevertheless drawing the attention of the Porte to the illegality of closing the Straits for however short a period. This incident has formed the subject of much heated comment in the press and it has been denounced as treasonable toady against Russia, while Turkey is strongly warned that she is playing a dangerous game and insists with Russia about to cross the Rubicon for setting the question of the Straits question aside.

The attitude of the Russian press on the subject of the Turkish occupation of Adrianople has been incomprehensible throughout and the statement which you, Sir, recently made in the House of Commons, respecting the attitude of His Majesty's Government towards the policy of compelling Turkey to observe the provisions of the London Treaty, has been severely criticised. His Majesty's Government, the "Novoe Vremya" remarks, are prepared to support the enforcement of a decision depriving the Balkan Slavs of their conquests in Albania with the whole force of the British fleet, but when it is question of enforcing respect for a treaty that fixed the Turco-Bulgarian frontier in a manner favourable to the Slavs, His Majesty's Government will do nothing, even when the whole Christian population in Thrace is being exterminated by Ottoman troops.

In spite, however, of the clamour raised by the press in favour of intervention there is a considerable section of the Russian public that views the matter in a much calmer light. So far from calling on the Government to draw the sword in order to restore Adrianople to Bulgaria, with the result that she would thus be brought nearer

to Constantinople, they consider that Russia's interests would be better served by leaving Adrianople in Turkey's keeping. On the other hand the Government, the press, and the public in general are at one in desiring to support Bulgaria against the excessive claims on which Greece is now insisting.

At the commencement of the second Balkan war M. Sazonof was a pronounced Bulgaro-phobe. He was angry with Bulgaria for rejecting the express commands of the Emperor, and feared that if she became too powerful she might prove a dangerous rival to Russia in the Near East. He therefore lent a willing ear to the anti-Bulgarian campaign conducted by Prince Nicholas during the visit which his Royal Highness paid to St. Petersburgh in June, and even went so far as to encourage Roumania to intervene. His sympathies, however, were rather on the side of Servia than of Greece, and such sympathies as he may have had for the latter when the war began gradually evaporated as her attitude became more and more overbearing with each successive Bulgarian defeat. He never wished to see Bulgaria utterly crushed, and the disasters which have overtaken her and the sad description which M. Gueshof, who arrived here last week, gave him of the present state of the country have made a deep impression on him. He has consequently become, as he himself admits, a strong Bulgaro-phil and violent anti-Hellenist. He has more than once taken the Greek Chargé d'Affaires severely to task for the recalcitrant attitude adopted by his Government, and has told him that it was no use his trying to make capital out of the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians, as the Greeks had on more than one occasion been guilty of still worse excesses. His chief preoccupation at present is to secure Cavalla for Bulgaria, as he does not wish to see Greece acquire such a predominant position in the Mediterranean, as the possession of all the best ports on the Ægean and of all the islands would give her. He trusts that he can count on the support of His Majesty's Government in this question.

The Russian press is very indignant at what they consider to be the extravagant demands of Greece, and points out that the fact that Roumania and Bulgaria have now come to terms should give the "Greek Napoleons" food for reflection. The public in general appear to share this view. They feel that in spite of the mistakes committed and the criminal arrogance displayed by a few Bulgarian Ministers it is unjust to forget the heroic sacrifices made by the nation, or the fact that without the part played by the Bulgarian army in the Turkish war, and without the intervention of Roumania in the present one, the Greeks would have had but few victories to boast of.

While the demands of the Serbs are also considered in some quarters to be excessive they are regarded as far more reasonable than those of the Greeks, and are palliated in the eyes of the Russian public by the fact that the Serbs are Slavs. M. Sazonof, while anxious to leave Kochana to Bulgaria, considers that Servia has a right to Ishtib and to certain other districts on the left bank of the Vardar, and he will use all his influence to secure them for her. Austria, on the other hand, would like to see the future frontier line drawn at the Morikovo; and this question constitutes the one serious point of divergence between the Austrian and Russian Governments.

I have, &c.

GEORGE W BUCHANAN

[37023] No. 197.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 203.)

Sir, *Rome, August 7, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a further official *dementi* of alleged Italian procedure with a view to the retention of the island of Stampalia, to which currency has been given by the "Echo de Paris."

This *dementi* has been issued to the press in the usual form through the medium of Stefani's Agency.

I have, &c.

RENNELL RODD.

Enclosure in No. 197.

Press Notice.

(Translation.)

THE "Écho de Paris" has published a telegram from London, according to which Italy has in the last few days sounded two Great Powers with a view to learning their opinion as to the possibility of her retaining the island of Stampalia, and has received the reply that her refusal to surrender all the islands which she has occupied in the Ægean would have very grave consequences.

The news published by the "Echo de Paris" is altogether fantastic.

[37024] No. 198.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 205.)

Sir, *Rome, August 7, 1913.*

WITH reference to the allegations put forward by the Italian Government in justification of their continued occupation of the Ægean islands, I learn from my Austrian colleague, who is at the present moment probably more in their confidence than any other representative, that there are certain valid grounds for the claim that the Turks have not yet fulfilled their obligations under the Treaty of Lausanne, inasmuch as, though the Turkish Government have taken the obvious and necessary steps for the final evacuation of Cyrenaica by any Turkish troops who had remained there, these measures have been counteracted by the occult agency of the Young Turk Committee. Thus, when the late Mahmoud Shevket ordered the evacuation, secret instructions were sent to Aziz Bey and other officers to remain. Aziz, it is true, got away with some difficulty, but a certain number of the others, it appears, have acted on the secret instructions, and so long as this duality of authority continues to be exercised from Constantinople the Italians have reason to complain that the terms of the Treaty of Lausanne have not been effectually carried out. The Young Turks are no doubt fully alive to the advantage which they derive from a maintenance of the Italian occupation until after the general liquidation of the territories lost to the Balkan States has taken place.

I have, &c.

RENNELL RODD.

[37066] No. 199.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 114.)

Sir, *Vienna, August 7, 1913.*

WITH the exception of the "Neue Freie Presse," the "Zeit," and the "Arbeiter-Zeitung," the press of Vienna, while welcoming with relief the conclusion of peace between the Balkan States, insists upon a revision of the treaty by the Great Powers. The "Fremdenblatt" says the territorial arrangements now made at Bucharest must be submitted to European examination especially as there has been up to the last no rapprochement of the standpoints of the belligerents. The "Tagblatt" says this must be done in order to avoid new troubles and further complications. The "Reichspost" goes further and says that only a preliminary peace has been concluded, which will enable the belligerents to demobilize, while the Powers must make the definitive peace and delimitation of territories. In the interests of justice and of the balance of power Europe must finish the work. "Can Cavalla be left to the Greeks and West Macedonia to the Serbs? That," says the "Reichspost," "is the question now put by Vienna and St. Petersburgh."

The "Neue Freie Presse" hopes that no revision may be necessary, but only a formal endorsement by the Powers, although both Austria-Hungary and Russia consider the partition of Macedonia an unfair one and the retention of Cavalla by Greece unnecessary while she has Salonica. This journal reads the Bulgarians a lecture for not having listened to the advice of Austria and not recognised that their real friends were the Roumanians. Most of the journals give cold comfort to Bulgaria and say that she has only herself to thank for all her troubles. To Roumania is

awarded very warm praise, her energy, her successful intervention, and her statesmanlike attitude are highly eulogised.

A different tone is taken by the "Zeit," which heads a leading article, "No Revision," and argues that a revision of the Treaty of Peace—if anything serious is meant by it—can only endanger the peace of Europe, for there is not sufficient union or agreement amongst the Powers. Nor would the victorious Balkan States admit of any revision. Is Austria-Hungary in a position to make war on them for the sake of Cavalla or Kotchana? Moreover, Roumania only intervened, in reality, in order to make Bulgaria small and to raise her own prestige. She has won great laurels in bringing about a peace, and she will not stand any attack upon it. She will not, after settling her affairs with Bulgaria, now turn against the Servians and Greeks. Count Berchtold, concludes the "Zeit," has again made a mistake. His policy is wrong and his policy has brought Austria's influence and prestige in the Balkans still lower than it has been. While making up to and supporting Bulgaria, he misunderstood Roumania, whose old and tried friendship should have been most carefully preserved.

The "Arbeiter-Zeitung" (Social Democrat) sees nothing but danger in the idea of a revision, as well as probable further humiliation to the Powers. "Let us leave Bulgaria and Greece alone," it says, "and be thankful for peace, which is what we want. Austrians want no second Scutari and have nothing to do with Cavalla."

I have, &c.

(For the Ambassador),

A. AKERS-DOUGLAS.

[36984] No. 200.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 286.)

Sir, *Berlin, August 8, 1913.*

I HAVE, since my articles in the German press on the subject of the conclusion of peace at Bucharest which are worth quoting individually, but the general tendency of all of them is so unanimous that it can be stated in a very few words. The writers of the articles evidently have the desire to fill so many columns, and, having nothing particular to say, they give long and detailed descriptions of the various frontiers culled from the telegrams, and discuss at unnecessary length the losses of territory suffered by Bulgaria. They express a certain amount of sympathy for the misfortunes of that country, but point out that they are entirely due to her own foolish obstinacy and to Dr. Danef's mistaken policy of trusting entirely and solely to Russia. But the two salient thoughts which appear in every article are the warmest and most flattering references to Roumania's rôle, with the obvious intention of cultivating her future friendship, and the desire that the Powers shall not interfere with the Bucharest settlement. It therefore seems clear that German public opinion, in so far as it is represented by the newspapers, which is, perhaps, less than in most countries, is entirely in agreement with the desire of the Imperial Government, so often expressed to me by both Herr von Jagow and Herr Zimmermann, to avoid so far as possible any interference by the Great Powers.

I have, &c.

GRANVILLE.

[37054] No. 201.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 420.)

Sir, *Paris, August 8, 1913.*

THE announcement that the Russian Government, as well as the Austro-Hungarian Government are informing the Peace Conference at Bucharest that they reserve the right to revise the terms of the Treaty of Peace concluded between the Balkan States has caused considerable surprise and irritation here. As I had the honour to inform you in my despatch No. 418 of yesterday's date, the "Temps" had already expressed itself as strongly opposed to the idea of revision. It will be seen from the article which I have the honour to enclose herein,* extracted from this

* Not printed.

evening's issue of the "Temps," that that newspaper has not modified its attitude now that it is known that Russia herself is in favour of revision.

The article criticises in very severe terms the attitude of Austria, which it declares is inspired solely by the desire of the dual monarchy to curry favour with Bulgaria at the expense of Greece and Servia, and ultimately to create a second triple alliance in the Balkans, composed of Turkey, Bulgaria, and Roumania. It characterises Count Berchtold's policy as a purely selfish one, and urges that Europe should not allow herself to be deceived by it. It cannot, it states, be pretended that Bulgaria is "crushed" when she is to gain all Thrace and two ports on the Ægean. Her losses in territory are moreover a very moderate punishment for her own rashness.

The explanation of Russia's co-operation with Austria-Hungary is to be found, according to the "Temps," in her anxiety not to be less Bulgarophile than Austria—an attitude entirely contrary to her true interests and to all her recent statements of policy. The 'Temps' goes on to enquire to what end the policy of revision can lead, and whether Russia is prepared to join Austria in forcing Greece to abandon Cavalla. The article concludes with an appeal to France's ally to reconsider her present attitude and to accept the Treaty of Bucharest as it stands. The pretext put forward by Russia and Austria that a revision by the Powers will render the Balkan settlement more durable is rejected as a sham by the "Temps," which points to the Treaty of Berlin and to the recent Treaty of London as instances of the failure of Europe to effect a permanent solution of the Near Eastern problem.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

[37055] No. 202.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 421.)

Sir, *Paris, August 9, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that this evening's issue of the "Temps" contains a statement on the subject of the revision of the Treaty of Bucharest and of French relations with Turkey which has the appearance of an official communiqué.

It states that the Russian action at Bucharest, of which the French Government had been until yesterday in ignorance, is now forming the subject of an exchange of views between Paris and St. Petersburgh. The French Government will, it adds, examine the consequences of the step taken by Russia with the desire of rendering the arrangement reached at Bucharest acceptable to her, under conditions that appear equitable and satisfactory to France.

The statement then deals with the allegations made by certain Russian newspapers to the effect that French capitalists have furnished Turkey with money on the occasion of the renewal of the contract of the tobacco régie. The facts, according to the "Temps," are these: The tobacco régie, a private society of an international character, renewed their contract, which was on the point of expiring—a necessary proceeding in order not to be deprived of their rights. Apart from this operation, which is private and international, no money has been advanced to Turkey by French capitalists.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

[37202] No. 203.

M. Misu to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

Légation de Roumanie, Londres,
M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, *le 28 juillet (10 août), 1913.*

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que la paix a été signée aujourd'hui, le 10 août, 1913, à 11 heures, à Bucarest, entre la Bulgarie, d'un côté, et la Roumanie, la Serbie, la Grèce et le Monténégro, de l'autre.

Heureux d'être à même de faire cette communication à votre Excellence, je saisis, &c.

N. MISU.

[37137] No. 204.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 11.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 11, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, two copies of a telegram dated the 10th August, 1913, from Vice-Admiral Burney.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure in No. 204.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *August 10, 1913.*

PRACTICALLY no roofs are left on any of the houses in the several villages I have visited round Scutari which the Montenegrins occupied during the war. All the wood in the neighbourhood has been used. The people are living at present in rough canvas shelters. With reference to my telegrams Nos. 82 and 86, I have so far received a sum of 59*l.* for relief work through efforts of Honourable A. Herbert, M.P. Submit that Lord Mayor of London may be requested to use his influence to obtain money for relief work in North Albania as early as possible. If the unfortunate inhabitants are to be saved from the greatest misery during the coming winter several thousand pounds are required at once for [? rounds] and repair work.

[37008] No. 205.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.—(Communicated to Foreign Office, August 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *August 8, 1913.*

THE villages round Scutari are in a very bad state and are urgently in need of help, and the powers of the present Commission must be extended into the surrounding country and villages which usually trade with Scutari, unless the administrative Commission which I understand is being sent to Albania commences its work soon.

Notwithstanding that the Austrian admiral has been ordered by his Government not to accede to any proposals affecting the country round Scutari, but to confine the work of the Commission strictly to the town, I consider it is impossible to separate the interests of the country from those of the town, and if the gendarmerie cannot go into the country to bring either witnesses or offenders into the Courts, justice cannot be administered.

[37605] No. 206.

Substance of Telegram from M. Coromilas, August 10, 1913.—(Communicated to Foreign Office by Greek Minister, August 11.)

WE hope that the conference of Ambassadors will not overlook the fact that it admitted our right to be heard before taking decisions touching our vital interests. We did not raise objection to a commission of enquiry for the purpose of informing the Great Powers on the character and the national sentiment of the districts which are disputed to us. But it appears that the proposed commission is intended more in the sense of an arbitral tribunal, with a programme preconceived against our *revendications*, and without our participating in matters involving the fate of tens of thousands of Greeks. Such was not the commission originally proposed by Sir Edward Grey. When, at his desire, we accepted Cape Stylos as the starting-point of the investigations of the commission, we consented to the cruel sacrifice of the coastal region, on the express condition that the inland line suggested by us would be admitted and that our possession of Koritza would be recognised.

We quite understand that some formula is being sought ensuring the withdrawal of Italy from the Greek islands and their cession to Greece. But when the realisation of this is made dependent on the execution of some clause of the Treaty of Lausanne at some uncertain future moment the question arises whether it is not incumbent on us that we should, before committing ourselves to any decision taken, without our participation, in regard to Epirus?

On the other hand, it is apparently proposed to deprive us of Saseno, on which our rights are incontestable, and that without any thought of compensation.

Similar proceedings are being adopted in regard to Castellorizo, the Greek islands which have thrown off the Turkish yoke.

In a later telegram, received this morning, M. Coromilas submits the following suggestions in respect to the propositions laid before the conference by the Austrian Ambassador on the 26th July:—

"(*a*.) Que la commission sera chargée de faire enquête sur toutes les populations, et Koritzo-Valaques et autres, des districts à assigner. De plus, ce serait faire injure à l'équité et au bon sens de ne pas chercher d'établir la conscience nationale des populations et tenir compte de leurs intérêts vitaux, se contentant du critérium seul de la langue, pour les soumettre, contre leur volonté, à une domination qu'elles haïssent. Il serait juste aussi d'admettre des représentants de la Grèce dans la commission.

"(*b*.) Selon l'opinion que tient Sir Edward Grey, les Gouvernements des Grandes Puissances auront seuls la qualité pour arrêter l'attribution définitive des régions contestées, en se basant, s'il y a lieu, sur les conclusions de la commission. Il serait à désirer qu'on établisse d'avance que cette attribution doit être regie par le principe de la majorité de la population, appliqué sur l'ensemble des districts à assigner. Dans l'exercice de ce principe la commission internationale devra, inspirée par les intérêts mêmes des populations, tenir compte de la nécessité de ne pas entraver par barrières arbitraires leur développement économique, et établir frontières équitables, offrant, au point de vue stratégique, égales garanties de securité pour leurs voisins.

"(*c*.) Il n'est ni juste, ni équitable qu'on exige de nous évacuer territoires que cette assemblée paraît devoir allouer à l'Albanie tant qu'attribution à la Grèce des îles occupées par l'Italie n'est pas un fait accompli.

"(*d*.) En ce qui concerne Saseno et Koritza, nous nous référons à notre dépêche d'hier."

[37189] No. 207.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 299.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 11, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 584 of 9th August.

I gave the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day your message. His Excellency said that you might count on his doing nothing without first consulting you and the French Government. He seemed still to hope that it might be possible to starve Turkey into submission if only all the Powers would abstain from giving her money.

[37191] No. 208.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Bucharest, August 11, 1913.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs received a telegram this morning from M. Sazonof congratulating him on the successful issue of pourparlers of Bucharest. The use of this word as casting a doubt on the finality of the treaty of peace has, I am informed, much perturbed his Excellency.

[37190] No. 209.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Athens, August 11, 1913.*

M. COROMILAS has been informed that it has been proposed by the London meeting of Ambassadors that the district lying between the two extreme lines, that proposed by Italy as well as that proposed by Greece, should be visited by the Commission of Delimitation which, without taking into consideration the interests or the wishes of the populations should take decisions upon ethnographical, geographical and strategical grounds only. He regrets that he is informed that no better solution than "leave go" but if this report be correct it would be unjust to disregard the wishes of people whose liberation has been effected, and whose inclinations are wholly towards Greece, whether from the point of view of material interests or of sentimental interest. The great majority even of the Vlachs of the Pindus, would wish for incorporation in Greece. M. Coromilas believes that the attempt to transfer to Albania the historic Greek province of Epirus would be resisted by the people by force. He pleads once more that the settlement of the Albanian frontier may be postponed.

[37194] No. 210.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 11.)

No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens August 11, 1913.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that refugees, both Greek and Mussulman, are arriving in thousands from the coast districts to be restored to Bulgaria, abandoning every thing rather than remain. The Greek Government are embarrassed to provide for them.

[36913] No. 211.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 395.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 11, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 398 of 9th August: Turks at Adrianople.

If the Austrian Ambassador approaches you, you should be guided by my telegram No. 390 of 8th August.

[36930] No. 212.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 236.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 11, 1913.*

I REGRET that Italian Government have been unable to accept the formula proposed on 8th August. At the meeting to-day we came nearly to an agreement about the Austrian reservations respecting delimitation of Scutari Vilayet, and as for the objection of Italian Government to formula about the islands I may have been able to announce to-morrow that agreement was reached. As it is, two alternative formulas are now being submitted by Italian and French Ambassadors to Paris and Rome respectively, and, unless agreement is come to on one of these, I shall have to state reason why *réunion* has adjourned without coming to an agreement.

[36921] No. 213.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 589.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 295 of 9th August.

I approve what you said. I have explained to Russian Ambassador that I think Treaty of Bucharest should be regarded as valid, except on points that Powers may wish to revise, and that it should be for any Power or Powers who wish to raise points to state them. Personally, I do not propose to suggest any point.

There is no question of German sympathies here in any sense that affects our understanding with Russia. I entirely approve what you said on this point.

German attitude to Treaty of Bucharest is certainly not pro-Austrian.

I thought German suggestions for getting Turks out of Adrianople a not unreasonable basis for discussion, and I gather that Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs did not differ on this point.

[36715] No. 214

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 192 of 8th August.

In the interest of harmony between the Powers, it is very desirable that these representations should be made, and I shall urge this at the meeting of the Ambassadors to-day.

[37497] No. 215.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright *

(No. 103.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1913.

AT the *réunion* to-day I asked what instructions had been received by the Ambassador respecting the Austrian conditions for the Commission of Delimitation for southern Albania which were discussed on the 8th instant. The following is the record of the agreement come to:—

"Le Comte Mensdorff fait savoir à la réunion que l'amendement proposé par Sir E. Grey à l'article 6 de la proposition austro-hongroise relative à la Commission internationale de Délimitation du sud de l'Albanie est adopté par son Gouvernement à condition que le reste de la proposition soit admis.

"Tous les Ambassadeurs étant autorisés par leurs Gouvernements à accepter la proposition austro-hongroise avec l'amendement à l'article 6 présenté par Sir E. Grey à la séance du 8 courant, la réunion est unanimement d'avis qu'il y a lieu d'adhérer à cette proposition."

The Austrian Ambassador then referred to the communication that he had made to the *reunion* on the 8th instant, respecting access to markets at Djakova and Dibra; and the following resolution was come to:—

"Le Comte Mensdorff a communiqué à la réunion au cours de la dernière séance un projet de déclaration ainsi conçu:

Le libre accès aux marchés de Djakova et de Dibra est assuré aux habitants des districts environnants de l'Albanie ces deux villes ayant servi de tout temps auxdits habitants de marchés indispensables pour leur existence économique. Ils pourront donc venir dans ces villes, apporter leurs produits pour les y vendre et y acheter les articles de leurs besoins, sans qu'une restriction quelconque leur soit imposée ou qu'on fasse dépendre ce libre accès de conditions quelconques. Il est bien entendu qu'ils auront à se conformer aux lois et aux règlements douaniers et de police en vigueur.

* Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 506), Earl Granville (No. 259), Sir R. Rodd (No. 203), and Sir G. Buchanan (No. 287).

"La réunion est d'avis qu'il y a lieu d'adopter ce projet, et pense qu'il doit être communiqué au Gouvernement serbe par les représentants des Puissances."

I then brought up the question of the Ægean islands in the Italian occupation, and the following is a record of what took place —

"Sir E. Grey demande à l'Ambassadeur d'Italie s'il a reçu une réponse de son Gouvernement au sujet de la formule proposée à la dernière séance par l'Ambassadeur de France relativement aux îles actuellement occupées par l'Italie.

"Le Marquis Imperiali répond que cette formule semble à son Gouvernement contenir quelques contradictions, et, pour faire suite à la première partie de sa déclaration du 5 août, il propose la rédaction suivante, qui dans la pensée du Gouvernement italien est conforme aux vues exprimées par le Gouvernement français:

"'Lorsque, conformément à la première partie de la déclaration italienne du 5 août, l'article 4 du Traité de Lausanne aura été intégralement exécuté par les deux parties contractantes, les six Grandes Puissances décideront à l'unanimité sur le sort final des îles du Dodécanèse, en tenant compte de l'intérêt de l'Europe à l'intégrité et la sécurité de la Turquie d'Asie.'

"Sir E. Grey fait observer que si l'on fait mention de la Turquie, il conviendra de mentionner la Grèce. Il est d'avis de supprimer le dernier membre de phrase en tenant compte de l'intérêt de l'Europe à l'intégrité et la sécurité de la Turquie d'Asie.'

"Sans être autorisé à consentir à cette suppression, l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, pour faciliter l'accord, déclare y adhérer à titre personnel, et la proposera à son Gouvernement.

"L'Ambassadeur de France n'est pas autorisé à accepter une autre formule que celle dont il a donné communication à la dernière séance. Il fera connaître à son Gouvernement la rédaction proposée par le Gouvernement italien, avec la suppression à laquelle adhère le Marquis Imperiali, sous réserve de consulter son Gouvernement.

"Sir E. Grey suggère la rédaction suivante, qui lui semble de nature à répondre aux vues des deux Gouvernements:

"'Lorsque, conformément à la première partie de la déclaration italienne du 5 août, l'article 4 du Traité de Lausanne aura été intégralement exécuté par les deux parties contractantes, les six Grandes Puissances se prononceront sur l'attribution du Dodécanèse et prendront d'un commun accord entre elles la décision à ce sujet.

"Les Ambassadeurs de France et d'Italie transmettront à leurs Gouvernements cette suggestion."

The following record was then made about a request received from Count Voïnovitch:—

"Le représentant du Monténégro a prié les Ambassadeurs de France, de Russie, d'Italie et d'Allemagne d'attirer l'attention de la réunion sur l'utilité de tenir compte, lors de la délimitation de la frontière albano-monténégrine, des nécessités de l'irrigation et du dessèchement pour lesquels un concours a été promis au Gouvernement monténégrin.

"Les Ambassadeurs de France et de Russie proposent de signaler cette demande à l'attention des Gouvernements.

"Les autres Ambassadeurs la soumettront à leurs Gouvernements."

The French Ambassador stated that, with regard to the Commission of Control, a salary of 1,000*l.* a-year with a travelling allowance of about 200*l.* was suggested by his Government for each commissioner.

The general opinion of the *reunion* seemed to be that the salary and allowance should amount to from 1,200*l.* to 1,500*l.*

The following communication was made by the Italian Ambassador:—

"Jusqu'au moment où un régime sanitaire définitif sera établi, on appliquera dans tous les territoires qui ont cessé de faire partie de l'Empire ottoman le régime sanitaire établi par la Convention sanitaire internationale de Paris, 1912.

"Dans la pensée du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, il serait désirable que des démarches soient faites auprès des Gouvernements bulgare, hellénique, serbe et monténégrin, en vue de les engager à ratifier la Convention de Paris, 1912.

"Des démarches devraient être également faites auprès du Gouvernement albanais, afin d'obtenir son adhésion à la convention précitée."

I said that I was not aware of any objection to this, but that I must consult the Department.

The following was communicated to the *réunion* by the Austrian Ambassador:—

"La question de la situation internationale du Mont-Athos n'a pas été réglée entièrement par la réunion. Toutefois un accord a été établi sur les points suivants:—

"Le Mont-Athos aura une autonomie indépendante et neutre.

"Le conseil (protate ou synaxis), composé des vingt représentants des vingt couvents entre lesquels toutes les terres de la presqu'île du Mont-Athos sont partagées, restera chargé de l'administration selon l'usage séculaire de la Sainte-Montagne.

"Ce conseil disposera d'une force de police pour le maintien de l'ordre et de la sécurité publique et aura le droit d'exercer la police de ses côtes à l'aide de bâtiments légers à exclusion de sous-marins. Le nombre de ces bâtiments de service ne devra pas excéder deux, ils seront d'un tonnage qui ne dépassera pas 300 tonneaux chacun, armés de canons d'un calibre de 7 centimètres maximum, mais sans installation pour lancer des torpilles ou pour poser des mines.

"Il est interdit aux bâtiments de guerre de toutes les Puissances de stationner ou de s'arrêter dans les eaux de la presqu'île sauf en cas de force majeure.

"Les communautés religieuses orthodoxes de toutes les Puissances auront le droit d'affermer des terres pour y installer leurs moines. Ces nouveaux arrivants devront obtenir d'un des vingt couvents propriétaires de toutes les terres du Mont-Athos et être admis à exercer l'usage en vigueur auquel leur établissement est admis, cet établissement étant du domaine exclusif de l'administration intérieure soumis aux antiques usages locaux.

"Les deux points sur lesquels un accord n'a pu être obtenu, savoir l'établissement d'un protectorat de toutes les Puissances orthodoxes et l'élaboration d'un règlement pour l'administration du Mont-Athos, devront être réservés à la décision ultérieure des Puissances."

I read the following record of what the Roumanian Minister had said to-day:—

"The Roumanian Minister called to say that he was instructed by his Government to take steps to bring before the Ambassadors the desire of his Government that Roumanian delegates should be admitted to the International Commission to be sent to Albania.

"The request was based on the fact that a great number of Roumanians will be included in the Albanian State.

"The Minister was instructed to ask Sir E. Grey to bring the request of the Roumanian Government before the *réunion* this afternoon, and would be grateful if he might be informed of the result."

I also read Sir Francis Elliot's telegram No. 149.

I pointed out that Roumania and Greece could hardly be suspected of collusion in this matter, and it was precisely owing to the fact that these two requests had reached me on the same day that it might be best that the same answer should be given to both that the admission to the proceedings of the International Commission was impossible.

I referred to the fact that only the Secretaries and Italian Ministers in Belgrade, besides the Austrian Minister, seem to have instructions to enable them to make the communication to the Servian Government confirming access to the Adriatic, urging the evacuation of Albanian territory by Servia, and recording the stipulations for the protection of minorities. I said that it was very desirable that all the Governments should instruct their representatives to make this communication, which has been the subject of much labour and thought in the *réunion*, especially on the part of the Russian and Austrian Ambassadors.

The French and Italian Ambassadors promised to come to see me to-morrow morning in the hope of bringing the consent of their Governments to one of the formulas proposed to-day respecting the islands in Italian occupation.

It was agreed that it would probably not be necessary to have another meeting of the *réunion* before we adjourned for the holidays.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

36657] No. 216

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 243.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 11, 1913.*

THE Turkish Ambassador left with Sir L. Mallet on the 6th instant the enclosed *aide-mémoire* advancing arguments in favour of the retention of Adrianople by Turkey.

Sir L. Mallet said that I hoped that the Ottoman Government would, on reflection, agree to relinquish that town, and be content with a better frontier than that which they would have obtained before. I felt sure that Turkey would gain in strength by this concession.

His Highness did not think this a possible solution, and argued that the possession of Adrianople itself was a source of strength, not of weakness, to Turkey; its long defence showed how useful it was. The loss of Adrianople was a standing menace for the safety of Constantinople, and he himself was convinced that if Adrianople were lost to Turkey the next move would be on Constantinople.

Tewfik Pasha referred again to the information which he had communicated the day before of the massacre of Turkish soldiers at Stara Zagora, and Sir L. Mallet said that he had brought this to my notice, but that I had received similar reports of massacres by the Turks themselves. He read to his Highness portions of the reports received from Vice-Consul Streeters on events at Rodosto and its neighbourhood, and Tewfik Pasha wrote down the names of the villages where massacres had occurred.

His Highness did not deny the possibility of excesses, and deplored the course of these hostilities and the terrible passion which they had aroused. He still saw no hope of a real settlement of the Macedonian question, and thought that, whatever the settlement arrived at, the committees would not cease from their activities.

I am, &c.
GREY.

Enclosure in No. 216.

Aide-mémoire.

LES Grandes Puissances connaissent les circonstances qui ont forcé le Gouvernement impérial à reoccuper la rive droite de la Maritza jusqu'à Andrinople. Il lui est désormais impossible d'évacuer aujourd'hui ces contrées, d'abord parce qu'elles sont indispensables pour assurer la défense de la capitale par une ligne frontière qui en sépare une partie du vilayet d'Andrinople, qui, d'ailleurs, n'a aucun rapport avec la Bulgarie, mais qui, au contraire, est rattaché à la patrie ottomane par les liens ethniques, historiques et religieux; ensuite, parce que la nation tout entière, dont le cœur avait saigné à la suite de la perte de la seconde capitale de l'Empire, a ressenti la douleur la plus intense à la vue des destructions, dévastations, massacres et atrocités commis par les Bulgares jusque dans les plus petits villages et sur toute la population restée sans défense. L'armée Impériale, qui a réoccupé ces malheureuses contrées, se considère aussi à juste titre comme la libératrice de ses compatriotes d'une domination néfaste et plus que barbare. Elle ne fait que traduire en cela les sentiments de toute la nation. Rentrer, dans ces circonstances, la ville d'Andrinople et les contrées réoccupées équivaudrait, aux yeux de la nation tout entière, comme de juste, à les livrer de nouveau à de nouvelles dévastations et à d'autres massacres.

La reprise d'Andrinople a eu également pour résultat d'unir toute la nation ottomane, qui ne manquerait de se dresser aujourd'hui comme un seul homme contre n'importe quel Cabinet ou Gouvernement qui commettrait la grave faute d'aller à l'encontre de la volonté nationale de conserver Andrinople et tout le territoire réoccupé. Il s'ensuivrait indubitablement une effervescence telle dans tout le pays que la conséquence en serait une anarchie complète.

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres,
le 6 août, 1913.

[37458] No. 217.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 281.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1913.

I HAD some conversation with the Russian Ambassador to-day on the subject of Adrianople.

He said that his Government seemed to be under the impression that the Germans had dropped their idea of putting before the Turks a proposition to induce them to withdraw from Adrianople.

I said that I had not heard that this proposition had been dropped. I had deprecated its being brought before the *réunion*, because if once we took up the question of Adrianople we should have to sit continuously through August and September. I had therefore suggested to the German Ambassador that the proper way to bring it before the Powers was by a circular telegram.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[37490] No. 218.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 282.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1913.

THE Russian Ambassador spoke to me to-day about the revision of the Treaty of Bucharest.

I said that I had suggested to the French Ambassador that the treaty should be regarded as valid, but that, if any Power thought modification necessary, it should suggest the point or points on which this was required. This seemed to me better than regarding the whole treaty as needing to be contested point by point. Personally, I did not intend to suggest any point for revision.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[37473] No. 219.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 47.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1913.

THE Servian Chargé d'Affaires called on Sir L. Mallet to-day to convey the thanks of his Government to His Majesty's Government for their attitude adopted towards Servia throughout the recent crisis, and to express the earnest hope that they would not depart from it now by insisting upon revision of the Treaty of Bucharest. The Servian Government would resist by force any attempt to alter a line which they had made such immense sacrifices to secure, once war had been forced upon them by Bulgaria. I referred to this connection to the difficulties encountered by the Powers in regard to Scutari, and said that the Servian Government were convinced that once it was understood that Bulgaria would still be a far larger and more powerful State than Servia or Greece, and remained in possession of extensive new territories, with access to a new sea, the talk of revision would subside, as the object of everyone in the interests of peace must be to maintain a balance of power in the Balkans.

Sir L. Mallet enquired whether Austria or Russia had made their views known at Belgrade, and M. Grouitch replied that Austria had reserved the right to revise the treaty, but he did not know whether Russia had said anything.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[35825] No. 220.

Sir Edward Grey to M. Madjarof.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1913.

IN reply to M. Mincof's note of the 25th ultimo, in which he made a formal demand on behalf of the Royal Bulgarian Government for an international enquiry throughout the whole field of the recent warlike operations to be conducted by official representatives of the Great Powers into the acts of destruction, pillage and murder which have been alleged against the Bulgarian army, I have the honour to point out that charges of a similar nature have also been made against the Greek, Servian and Turkish armies, and that the three Governments concerned may, therefore, all in turn demand similar enquiries, which it would be impossible, in fairness for the Powers to refuse if they had complied with the request of the Bulgarian Government.

I would also draw your attention to the difficulty that, by the time that the commission had met and begun its work, no trustworthy evidence of what had taken place would any longer be available. I have, moreover, the honour to state that, according to the information at my disposal, some of the Great Powers doubt the feasibility of the proposal made by the Bulgarian Government.

I have, &c.
E. GREY

[35810] No. 221.

Sir Edward Grey to Count Mensdorff.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1913.

IN reply to your Excellency's note of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade has been instructed to request the Servian Government to withdraw their troops from the bridge of Vezir over the River Drin, the mountain of Bastrik and the pass of Tchafa Morines, and to allow the Albanians free and unconditional access to the market of Djakova.

Mr. Crackanthorpe has been requested to make this communication as soon as the representatives of the other Great Powers are similarly instructed.

I have, &c.
E. GREY

[36297] No. 222.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1913.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit herewith for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a despatch which has been received from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,* forwarding copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney, with regard to the repayment by the Ottoman Government of a loan raised by the municipality of Scutari for the construction of a bridge over the River Bozana.

It is not clear to Sir E. Grey, from Admiral Burney's letter, why the Ottoman Government should be asked to repay the first instalment if the town of Scutari will repay the remainder of the loan, and I must point out that, though it is true that the sum was raised by the municipality at the orders of the Ottoman Government the bridge exclusively benefits the town, and it would therefore appear just that the whole amount should be repaid by the municipality.

In view of the above considerations, I am to request you to enquire of Admiral Burney on what principle he has requested that the Ottoman Government should be asked to repay the first instalment of the loan.

I am, &c.
W. LANGLEY.

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* Part X, No. 728.

[37210] No. 223.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 423.)

Sir, *Paris, August 11, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a leading article,* extracted from this evening's issue of the "Temps," examining the political situation in the Balkans, which appears likely to be the outcome of the conclusion of peace at Bucharest.

The article points out that the attitude of the Bulgarian delegates at the Peace Conference, and the reports of the excited state of public opinion at Sophia, justify the apprehension that the future energies of Bulgaria may be directed towards seeking revenge for her defeat. This danger, the article continues, has not escaped the notice of the Governments of Roumania, Greece, Servia, and Montenegro, who appear to be already seeking a common measure of insurance against a Bulgarian offensive. Other reasons exist, however, for hastening a union between the four states. Servia and Montenegro count on Greece for opening to them the port of Salonica; Greece is interested in Servia and Montenegro being strong enough to withstand the menace of Austria-Hungary; Roumania relies on Greece and Servia for aid against the dangers to which her new frontiers expose her, as well as for commercial outlets in the Mediterranean. If, therefore, Bulgaria, ignoring her true interests, places herself in opposition to her neighbours, instead of pursuing the peaceful development of her new territories she will only hasten the formation of a new group possessing over 1,000,000 armed men, and find herself in the necessity of becoming the satellite of other Powers in order to restore the balance of power.

It is impossible, the article concludes, to remain indifferent to the new grouping. France and the Triple *Entente* are interested first and foremost in the balance of power in the Mediterranean. The new order of things gives Bulgaria access to the Ægean Sea and considerably increases the maritime power of Greece, which will be still further developed by her receiving the Dodecanese when evacuated by Italy. The vigilance and convergent efforts of German as well as Austrian and Italian policy to benefit by the changes which have been brought about clearly point out the policy which France, her allies, and friends should follow, and serve as a reminder to them to remain observant and united.

I have, &c.

FRANCIS BERTIE.

[37329] No. 224.

[Memorandum communicated by Turkish Embassy, August 12, 1913.]

POUR faire suite à l'aide-mémoire du 5 courant concernant le traitement inhumain et barbare auquel les prisonniers de guerre ottomans détenus en Bulgarie sont journellement soumis par les autorités militaires bulgares, il y a lieu de citer le texte d'un télégramme transmis au Gouvernement Impérial par le Gouverneur général d'Andrino, lequel contient le récit tragique de trois prisonniers de guerre miraculeusement échappés à une de ces tueries systématiques :—

"Nous arrivâmes à Hasskeuy [le 11 août] [illegible] nous conduisit à Starrizagora par une marche forcée, sans jamais nous arrêter. Nous nous trouvâmes dans la cour d'un hôpital entourée d'une ligne de chemin de fer. Les habitants, des gendarmes, des soldats bulgares et des habitants armés ont commencé à tirer contre nous un feu nourri. Affolés, nous sommes montés sur les rails de fer, tâchant de nous défendre par des coups de pierres. Ceux qui parvenaient à s'échapper étaient poursuivis par la cavalerie bulgare et tués en grande partie. Nous sommes arrivés à la frontière après une marche de onze jours à travers des forêts."

Ces actes inouïs se répètent journellement; les Bulgares continuent à massacrer les populations musulmanes et les prisonniers ottomans. Chaque jour quelques-uns de ces malheureux qui échappent à la fureur bulgare, viennent implorer le secours des autorités Impériales pour sauver leur famille et leurs compatriotes restant encore sous une domination plus que sauvage. Le Gouvernement bulgare a même avoué

* Not printed.

cyniquement par la voie de son agence télégraphique que ces massacres avaient eu lieu, mais il s'est évertué à les excuser par le banal prétexte de matinerie.

La continuation de ces massacres et de ces actes de barbarie commis sur les malheureuses populations musulmanes et sur ces prisonniers de guerre restés sans défense en Bulgarie ne peut laisser indifférent le Gouvernement Impérial, qui se verrait amené forcément, devant cet état de choses lamentable, à déclarer la guerre au Gouvernement bulgare.

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres,
le 12 août, 1913.

[37318] No. 225.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 342.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 11, 1913.*

WITH a view to a propaganda in favour of revision of Treaty of Peace, Bulgarian Government yesterday sent to London an unofficial mission consisting of certain Bulgarian professors and others who know England and Englishmen, and some American missionaries, about ten in all, accompanied by "Times" correspondent for the Balkans. Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that they will not go to the Foreign Office. I learn that some of them have funds to be spent on the press.

(Sent to Belgrade and Bucharest.)

[37195] No. 226.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 399.)

(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Constantinople, August 11, 1913.*

FOLLOWING is text of Turkish reply to identic communication of 7th:

"En réponse à la déclaration que votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire au nom de son Gouvernement, je m'empresse de l'assurer que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est constamment efforcé, indépendamment de toute considération, à se conformer aux principes posés par le traité de Londres.

"Néanmoins, si la disposition relative à la ligne Enos-Midia n'a pu être respectée par lui, à l'instar des autres dispositions du traité en question, c'est que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est trouvé dans l'impérieuse et pressante obligation d'intervenir pour empêcher l'extermination systématique des populations dont le seul tort était de se trouver au delà de la ligne Enos-Midia. Il se trouve, en outre, dans l'obligation non moins impérieuse de s'assurer une ligne de frontière pouvant garantir la sécurité de sa capitale et celle des détroits, et conséquemment permettant l'établissement de rapports normaux et durables entre les États voisins.

"C'est avec une vive reconnaissance que je constate que votre déclaration vient à l'encontre de cette dernière crainte, et je me permets d'y voir une justification de la ligne de conduite suivie par le Gouvernement Impérial.

"C'est en leur esprit de haute justice et d'équité, j'espère fermement que les Grandes Puissances voudront bien admettre aussi que la ligne frontière que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est tracée par sa communication du 10 juillet, 1913, est la seule qui puisse remplir les conditions voulues de sécurité et de durabilité."

[37215] No. 227.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 400.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 11, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 11th August.

As regards the second paragraph of the Turkish reply, I venture to recall that our evidence, though generally negative, goes to show that the Bulgarian withdrawal beyond the Enos-Midia line was accompanied by little in the way of excesses, and

certainly by nothing that can be called "systematic extermination," whereas Turkish excesses practised on their own subjects in reoccupied districts are well established.

As to military considerations advanced in paragraph 3, perhaps the international boundary commission asked for by the Ottoman peace delegate would be the proper authority to decide on suitable frontier

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[37223] No. 228.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 401.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 11, 1913*

TURKS are still actively pushing forward troops and collecting transport animals, and must now have not far short of 350,000 men in the reoccupied districts. My information goes to show that, in spite of the denials of the Grand Vizier given me to-day, they will not lose opportunity, if indeed they do not create pretext, to advance beyond the Maritza, but less probably across the old Bulgarian frontier. There is some evidence to show that a striking force of 90,000 men is being prepared.

(Secret.)

German Ambassador has been informed by the Grand Vizier that an emissary from King of Greece is expected either here or at headquarters of the Turkish army this month to propose that, as Greece cannot leave the population of Thrace under Bulgarian rule, Turkey should occupy those districts to protect Christians. This would seem to be a step towards autonomy of Thrace, which was clearly aimed at in Turkish communiqué of 19th July (see my telegram No. 355 of 21st July).

(Sent to Sophia and Athens.)

[35918] No. 229

Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 12, 1913.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 281, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, I transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch which I have addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* recording a conversation with the French Ambassador at this Court during which M. Cambon stated that the French Government were now opposed to the convocation of a conference to settle the Balkan question.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[36656] No. 230.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Villiers

(No. 38.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 12, 1913.*

THE Belgian Chargé d'Affaires called at this Office on the 7th instant to say that his Government had had many applications from gendarmerie officers for the work in Albania, and wanted to know what to answer.

He understood that the Swedish Government had refused to send officers, and that the Powers had applied to Holland.

M. de Prelle de la Nieppe was informed that matters had not gone quite so far as that, but that that was in fact the action contemplated, both France and Germany having agreed.

In those circumstances, he said, no doubt application would be made to Holland, and he would so inform his Government. They had a large force of gendarmerie in Belgium under the Government, and it was very efficient.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

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* No. 135

[37555] No. 231.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 507.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 12, 1913.*

THE French and Italian Ambassadors called to see me this morning, and informed me that their Governments both agreed to the following formula respecting the Ægean islands at present occupied by Italy:—

"Lorsque, conformément à la première partie de la déclaration italienne du 5 août, l'article 2 du Traité de Lausanne aura été intégralement exécuté par les deux parties contractantes, les six Grandes Puissances se prononceront sur l'attribution du Dodecanese et prendront d'un commun accord entre elles la décision à ce sujet."

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[37556] No. 232.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 206.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 12, 1913.*

YESTERDAY, in the course of conversation with the Italian Ambassador, I pointed out what a difficult situation would arise if the fulfilment of the Treaty of Lausanne was indefinitely delayed by the Turks, and Italy therefore remained indefinitely in occupation of some of the Ægean islands. I thought that it might become necessary to propose some fixed date by which, if Turkey did not fulfil the Treaty of Lausanne, Italy and the other Powers in consultation should decide the fate of the islands.

The Ambassador assured me that it was a matter of good faith on the part of Italy to abandon the islands. He would pledge himself in every possible way that she would do so; and, if she did not, it would be impossible for him to stay in London.

To-day he informed me that he had reported to his Government what I had said about the possibility of fixing a date. He implored me not to press anything at the moment, but he had impressed upon his Government that, now that an agreement had been come to about Southern Albania, they must be under no mistake as to the positive nature of British views with regard to the Ægean islands. He urged very strongly that I should not say too much in public in my speech this afternoon in the House of Commons.

I said that something was due to British public opinion, and I must deal with the matter as best I could.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[37349] No. 233

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 703.)
Sir, *Constantinople, August 5, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 678 of the 28th July, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further report on the massacre of Malgara which I have received from the Armenian Patriarch.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

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* Also to Sir R. Rodd (No. 205).

Inclosure in No. 283

Report on the Massacre of Malgara, communicated by the Armenian Patriarch.

LE 1er (14) juillet, de grand matin, trois fonctionnaires et une dizaine de gendarmes bulgares remirent Malgara à Chéigh Ali Effendi, puis quittèrent la ville, de sorte que celle-ci et ses environs restèrent jusqu'au lendemain, midi, sans force publique et sans autorités.

Cette situation anarchique, ainsi que la présence d'un danger que l'animosité de l'élément musulman à l'égard de l'élément chrétien indiquait comme très proche, décidèrent près de soixante Arméniens à émigrer précipitamment en Bulgarie. Quelques jeunes filles même ayant obtenu l'autorisation de leurs parents, se joignirent, à pied, au groupe.

A la suite de rapports envoyés par Ali Effendi touchant la situation dans la ville, le mard., 2 (15) juillet, vers 4 heures à la turque, une partie des troupes ottomanes s'avançant d'Uludja et de Kechan vers Malgara.

Les vicaires arménien et grec, divers notables, ainsi qu'une foule nombreuse s'empressèrent d'aller à la rencontre des troupes. Ali Effendi, adressant la parole à son commandant, exprima sa joie du retour de l'armée ottomane à laquelle il souhaita la bienvenue. Mais, la voix extrêmement dure: "Arrière, lâches," fit le commandant, en toisant la foule.

Cet incident produisit sur les habitants de Malgara la plus pénible impression.

De nombreux bataillons avançaient au fur et à mesure, toujours accompagnés par la populace. Ici un détail important est à relever, à savoir, qu'avant l'entrée des troupes dans la ville on n'avait pas aperçu trace de la populace.

La présence de celle-ci, dont le nombre grossissait sans cesse, causait de vives préoccupations aux Arméniens.

D'après les renseignements reçus, le tiers des forces militaires arrivées à Malgara appartenait au IVe Corps d'Armée et l'ensemble de ces forces ne devait pas être inférieur à 35,000 hommes.

La populace commença à exciter les soldats en leur répétant que les Bulgares n'avaient rien fait et que ceux qui avaient anéanti le pays étaient les giaours indigènes. D'autre part, plusieurs officiers, conduits par des bachi-bouzouks, circulaient dans les quartiers arméniens, où ils écrivaient certaines choses.

Le lundi et mardi passèrent ainsi, sans qu'il y eût à noter autre chose que quelques petits vols. Mais le matin du mercredi, 3 (16) juillet, l'attitude de la populace étant devenue plus agressive, les boutiques, le marché fut presque complètement fermé. Au Bazirguian-Tcharchi, quelques boutiques arméniennes avaient été mises à sac.

Sur ces entrefaites, sur les protestations des boutiquiers, l'autorité militaire eût interdit le pillage, aucune proclamation susceptible d'inspirer confiance aux Arméniens n'ayant été publiée, aucun ordre sévère, lancé, au contraire, sur les instructions du commandant, le mardi et le mercredi, les criers publics invitèrent, à deux reprises, dans les quartiers arméniens: "Ceux qui auraient volé des objets appartenant aux musulmans ou qui seraient en possession d'armes, à les livrer."

Le commandant militaire de la place, Mahmoud Bey, appelant les notables arméniens en sa présence leur cria à la face: "Traîtres arméniens! Vous possédez des objets et des armes volés aux musulmans." En outre, le soir du quatrième jour, un sous-lieutenant déclara ouvertement à nos nationaux: "Vous autres Arméniens avez grandement aidé les Bulgares. Mais, aujourd'hui ou demain vous recevez votre récompense!"

Etant donnée la surexcitation existante, il était tout naturel que de pareils propos tenus par des personnages officiels, ainsi que les proclamations des crimes, eussent pour conséquence de pousser la populace aux pires méfaits.

Epouvanté par ces symptômes sinistres, les Arméniens se retirent dans leurs demeures, s'attendant d'un instant à l'autre à voir fondre sur eux la catastrophe.

Mercredi, à minuit, une partie des troupes quitte la ville. Jeudi matin, le 4 (17) juillet, quelques soldats demandent, sur un ton farouche, à Bédros, de Rodosto, et à Garabet Manassian, de Malgara, de leur indiquer la route d'Ouzroun-Keupru. Frappé d'épouvante, Garabet se réfugie chez lui.

Le prétexte était trouvé. Aussitôt, un groupe de soldats, accompagné de nombreux bachi-bouzouks, s'approche de la maison de Minassian et Au Tchavouche, de Malgara, à l'aide de torchons enflammés enduits de pétrole, met le feu à l'habitation ainsi qu'à celle du curé.

Le commandant en second, Moustafa Pacha, se rend sur le lieu de l'incendie et se renseigne auprès de ceux qu'il rencontre. Quand on lui dit que l'Arménien n'a pas voulu indiquer aux soldats la route d'Ouzroun-Keupru, il laisse éclater sa fureur "Race scélérate," clame-t-il, "issue des Bulgares, race de pourceaux, de mécréants," &c.

Tandis que des maisons flambaient en cette partie de la ville—il semble que le feu y avait été mis dans le but d'attirer en cet endroit l'attention des Arméniens—au marché, vers 11 heures, de meurtres et pillages étaient commis sous les prétextes les plus futiles.*

Un Arménien tout couvert de sang ayant passé devant Mehmed Ali Pacha, celui-ci montra une parfaite indifférence. Les soldats et la populace musulmane pénètrent dans les maisons arméniennes situées aux extrémités de la ville et les mettent à sac.

Grâce aux efforts des soldats arméniens se trouvant dans l'armée, l'incendie peut être maîtrisé après avoir consumé vingt-trois maisons avec tout ce qu'elles contenaient.

Mais l'occasion décisive attendue depuis trois jours arrive enfin.

La ville étant entourée d'un nombre assez important de troupes et de plusieurs milliers de bachi-bouzouks. Vers 10 heures à la turque, le feu éclate de nouveau en divers endroits du marché. Alimenté par un vent violent, le sinistre prend, en peu de temps, des proportions effrayantes. A ce même moment on entend des explosions. Les Arméniens croient que la ville est bombardée par les Turcs et que ceux-ci exterminent les habitants. De leur côté, la populace turque et les soldats croient que ce sont des bombes cachées dans les boutiques arméniennes qui éclatent.

Or, il s'agit de barils de benzine, d'alcool et autres spiritueux se trouvant dans les dépôts auxquels le feu s'est communiqué.†

Affolés par l'épouvante, les Arméniens qui voient les flammes gagner les quartiers et sont eux-mêmes menacés de devenir la proie du fléau, se précipitent, [illegible] les cris et des lamentations déchirantes ces femmes et des enfants, vers les jardins situés à l'extrémité de la ville et là, en plein air, [illegible] l'accomplissement de leur sombre destinée. Heureusement, deux médecins militaires ainsi que quelques compagnies de soldats veillent sur ces réfugiés et leur donnent courage.

N'oublions pas de dire que le caimakan, accompagné du commandant de la gendarmerie et d'un gendarme, arrive le même jour, vers 11 heures à la turque du soir, à Malgara, et déploie d'inutiles efforts pour éteindre l'incendie.

La nuit, il fait appel au concours des Arméniens. Mais les femmes et les enfants ne veulent pas se séparer de leurs maris, de leurs fils, de leurs frères. Le caimakan sollicite alors le concours des troupes.

Le commandant réplique: "Que m'importe, puis que les véritables intéressés restent indifférents?"‡

Le fléau accomplit ses ravages avec une rapidité foudroyante. Bientôt, soldats et bachi-bouzouks pénètrent dans les maisons et les pillent en toute liberté. Quelques Arméniens qui ont le courage de s'approcher de leurs demeures pour tâcher de sauver du feu une partie de leurs meubles, sont empêchés d'y entrer par des soldats qui leur crient: "Yassak" (c'est défendu).

Nous apprenons même que quelques Arméniens ont été, pour ce simple acte—si naturel—arrêtés par ordre de l'autorité militaire et sont encore détenus.

A 6 heures à la turque de la nuit, le caimacan revient auprès des Arméniens et les adjure de nouveau, en se portant personnellement garant de leur vie, de prêter leur concours en vue de l'extinction du sinistre. Cinquante à soixante jeunes gens s'offrent, au péril de leur existence, et, grâce à leurs efforts, le feu peut être maîtrisé.

L'infortunée population arménienne passe toute la nuit en plein air.

Le lendemain, les corps des victimes tombées dans le marché sont déposés dans la cour de l'église.

Huit jours après la catastrophe, aucun Arménien n'osait encore s'aventurer sur ces lieux dévastés par l'incendie, cependant que les ruines fumaient et que des enfants

* C'est en ce moment que Yervante Pejchkian, Hadji Varterès, Tatar Oghlou Kévork, Toros Mamédjian et d'autres ont été [illegible] Hadji Emanuel, Vartan Bedros, Hassan Hodja, Mehmed Ali, &c. Le fait est attesté par Hadji Manouel et par d'autres, grièvement blessés au cours de cette boucherie. Les blessés affirment en outre que l'ordre de tuer fut, en premier lieu, donné par un officier.

† La commission d'enquête envoyée par le caimacan et le Ministre de l'Intérieur, Talaat Bey, a à dessein, voulu expliquer ces explosions par l'éclat de bombes lancées par les Bulgares. Nous nous sommes dire que les Arméniens s'étaient servis de bombes. Du reste, s'il s'était agi d'explosions d'une autre genre, la mosquée, qui se trouve tout près de l'endroit, eût sauté et la moitié de la ville se fût écroulée. Or, de la ipse, dans son rapport, la commission d'enquête passe sous silence, pas un mot n'a été hasardé du fait de ces explosions.

‡ En cette circonstance, un simple soldat lève la main sur le caimacan, s'il n'a pas reculé.

musulmans retiraient de dessous les décombres des objets appartenant aux Arméniens et qu'ils s'empressaient d'emporter.

Toujours une semaine après, d'un endroit situé à deux heures et demie de distance, on apporta le cadavre, affreusement mutilé et devenu méconnaissable, d'un notable arménien de Malgara, Bured Effendi Adjemian.

Nous joignons à notre rapport une liste indiquant les noms des 12 Arméniens tués à Malgara, des 10 Arméniens blessés, des 8 disparus et des 7 emprisonnés; le nombre des boutiques brulées (218) et celui des maisons (87).

Le total des pertes matérielles s'élève à la somme de £T. 80,000.

Cette catastrophe a totalement ruiné la population arménienne de Malgara, qui campe sur un monceau de décombres et, de désespoir, veut s'éloigner un moment plus tôt des lieux qui l'ont vue naître.

Rodosto, le 17 (30) *juillet*, 1913.

[37350] No. 234

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 704.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August* 5, 1913.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 663 of the 25th July last, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further letter from the President of the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt on the subject of the Debt's interests in Albania.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M MARLING

Enclosure in No. 234

Sir A. Block to Mr. Marling

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le* 20 *juillet* (2 *août*), 1913.

COMME suite à mes lettres des 12 et 22 juillet dernier concernant l'attitude arbitraire adoptée par le Gouvernement provisoire albanais à l'égard de notre administration, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le Gouvernement précité, tout en paraissant maintenant disposé à laisser fonctionner en Albanie les services de la Dette publique, exige que les fonds provenant des revenus concédés lui soient remis contre conçus au fur et à mesure de leur encaissement.

D'autre part, la Régie des Tabacs, qui gère le principal de ces revenus, va subir également de graves préjudices du fait des mesures décrétées à son égard par les autorités albanaises, lesquelles ont décidé de frapper les tabacs introduits dans ces régions d'un droit de douane de 11 pour cent et d'une commission abusive de 15 pour cent. La Régie a déjà protesté par écrit contre ces prétentions illégales, qui ne tiennent aucun compte de sa concession et la mettent sur le même pied qu'un simple négociant importateur. Elle a invité en même temps son agence de Janina à formuler les plus expresses réserves pour la réparation ultérieure des dommages causés, du fait de ladite mesure, tant à elle-même qu'à la Dette publique.

Notre conseil d'administration, ne voyant actuellement aucune possibilité pour ses agents de se soustraire aux exigences du Gouvernement albanais, s'est borné à leur recommander de n'y céder qu'après avoir fait consigner par écrit leurs protestations. Il m'a chargé en même temps, en s'en remettant de nouveau à votre haute intervention, de vous signaler ces nouvelles infractions commises par le Gouvernement albanais aux engagements pris par les Grandes Puissances envers les porteurs étrangers de fonds ottomanes.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Président du Conseil,

ADAM BLOCK

[37351] No. 235.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 705.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August* 5, 1913.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 692 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's acting consul-general at Salonica on the subject of military operations near Juma.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 235.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Mr. Marling.

(No. 75. Confidential.)

Sir, *Salonica, July* 20, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Greek troops, after the taking of the Kresna defile on the 24th July, reported in my despatch No. 72 of that date, again executed a forward movement on the 25th and 26th July.

According to the Greek official account, the Bulgarians after retiring from Kresna, where the Greeks captured two quick-firing guns, took up a position stretching from the mountain of Rujen (1,257 metres) eastwards through Smathi on the Struma River to Porogos Mahalla. The enemy had constructed four lines of fortifications and had several big guns, including four siege guns.

On the 26th July the Greek left, advancing on a line from the Struma River to Mehomia, drove the enemy before them through Porogos Mahalla and Ogumar Mahalla to the mountains of Arsvanica and Papas Bashi.

The centre dislodged the Bulgarians from Smith, driving them through Ormanovo towards Djumaibala.

The Greek 3rd division, acting on the right, engaged in a two days' battle with the Bulgarian left, composed of the 3rd and 6th divisions, at Rujen, which the Bulgarians finally abandoned.

In the fighting round Smith the Greeks captured three cannon and six ammunition waggons.

The Bulgarians have now concentrated round Jumaibala, and, having received reinforcements, are more than holding their own against the Greek attacks, most of the fighting being carried on to the east of Juma on the heights of Arisvanica–Papas Bash.

Meanwhile in Thrace Dedeaghatch was occupied on the 25th July by Greek landing parties from the warships, and on the 26th July Greek troops occupied Xanthi, the Greek fleet lying that day off Port Lagos. It is reported that the Greek bishop of Xanthi and eighty Greek notables were carried off by the Bulgarians at the present.

Greeks estimate that up to the present 15,000 of their troops have been wounded, and that they have captured 12,000 Bulgarians and eighty-two guns up to date.

Fresh troops arrive daily from Greece, the recruits of 1913 having been called up, also those who for various reasons were exempted from service in 1902, 1903, 1904.

M. Venizelos arrived in Salonica from Greece on Sunday, the 27th July, and left the same day for Uskub and Bucharest after a telephonic conversation with the King of Greece.

Local Greek opinion and the local press call for the complete exclusion of Bulgaria from Macedonia, and propose a frontier line for Greece which would run from Makri west of Dedeaghatch, northwest to the Rhodope Balkans, and west to the Vardar River, a little north of Doiran.

The railway line to Uskub is now clear, but, several bridges having been blown up, it is only used for military purposes.

I have, &c.

JAMES MORGAN

[37352] No. 236.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 705.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 5, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of an extract from a private letter which, written by an individual who, I am informed, is generally worthy of credence, has been communicated to me regarding the action of the Bulgarian troops before evacuating Adrianople.

This is the first direct evidence that I have had of this "Bulgarian atrocity" which has been made so much of by the Turks. The figure given, however, is much greater than the largest yet given by the Turks, *i.e.*, forty-eight, so that even this evidence must be received with some reserve.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 236.

Extract from a Private Letter communicated to Mr. Marling.

LE samedi, 19 juillet, on apprit que les autorités bulgares quittaient précipitamment la ville et qu'un tramway avait été mis à leur disposition pour se rendre à Mustapha. Toute la nuit de samedi ce fut une exode pour ces derniers et désordre total. Les employés, les autorités avec leurs familles quoi de tous les autres citoyens bulgares, ainsi que de plusieurs officiers. C'était tout bonnement la panique. A partir de samedi la ville restait sans autorité, car il ne se trouvait plus sur place qu'une dizaine d'officiers et sous-officiers avec des troupes presque insignifiantes.

Les militaires ayant ouvertement déclaré que dans le cas où, malgré l'intervention des Puissances, les troupes ottomanes avanceraient vers Andrinople dans le but de réoccuper la ville, ils étaient décidés à ne livrer la ville que réduite en cendres, et c'est dans ce but qu'ils avaient braqué les canons placés autour d'Andrinople vers la direction de la ville. Mais le départ précipité d'un grand nombre de militaires dans la nuit de samedi, et d'autre part les quelques officiers avec deux bataillons de soldats qui restèrent en ville, craignant un soulèvement de la population, qu'ils ne sauraient maîtriser, n'ayant plus les forces nécessaires à cet effet, furent les causes de ce que la ville a été sauvée sans que les Bulgares aient pu mettre en exécution leurs sinistres projets.

Entre-temps, les officiers voyant l'impossibilité de transporter en Bulgarie, faute de temps et de wagons, les stocks de farine, &c., qu'ils avaient dans deux grands dépôts près de la gare de Caragatch, y mirent le feu dans la journée de dimanche, tout en laissant aux habitants pauvres de Caragatch la liberté d'enlever des provisions, sous les yeux même des soldats qui surveillaient l'incendie.

Mais le lendemain, lundi, les officiers, qui ne cessèrent pas de poursuivre l'élément grec, et qui avaient permis intentionnellement aux indigents grecs de Caragatch de prendre part au pillage autorisé, firent procéder à des perquisitions domiciliaires dans le faubourg, arrêtèrent et emprisonnèrent dans une cave souterraine de la gare quatre-vingts Grecs environ dans les maisons desquels ils trouvèrent des provisions provenant des dépôts incendiés.

Dans la matinée du lundi, quand l'arrivée des troupes ottomanes était imminente, les soldats bulgares, par l'ordre de leurs officiers, égorgèrent les quatre-vingts prisonniers susdits par groupes de quatre, et les précipitèrent ainsi dans la Maritza, où il périrent tous sauf un, qui par hasard réussit à se sauver. En même temps ils incendiaient le bureau central de la gare, après quoi les officiers et soldats montèrent sur le train qui les attendait sous pression, et prirent la fuite pour la Bulgarie.

[37370] No. 237.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 83.)

Sir, *Bucharest, August 8, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit the protocols of the sittings of the Peace Conference at Bucharest up to and including the decisive sitting of the 6th instant. The first sitting was held on the 30th ultimo. M. Majorescu, Roumanian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, having been elected president, welcomed the foreign delegates in the name of King Charles, expressing his conviction that all were animated by the desire to secure for the Christian peoples now at war a lasting peace on the basis of a fair balance of power. M. Majorescu then proposed a suspension of hostilities for five days, this measure having been decided upon in principle on the previous day on the initiative of M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, who, under the influence doubtless of the representations made by some of the Powers at Athens, had proposed it on his arrival in Bucharest.

M. Venizelos and M. Tonchef, the chief Bulgarian delegate, replied on behalf respectively of the allies and Bulgaria. Both expressed their firm desire for the prompt conclusion of peace, and both agreed to the proposed five days' truce. M. Tonchef said that he and his colleagues were happy to have been invited for the peace negotiations in Bucharest a capital in which had always predominated that "sens européen," which they must strive to make prevail in the discussions of the Conference so as to ensure that its decisions would be just and lasting.

The second sitting was held on the 31st ultimo, when it was decided that preliminary discussions of the various points at issue should also take place in private conferences between the parties interested in order to clear away as far as possible before submission to the Conference.

As might have been expected from M. Tonchef's telegram of M. Majorescu's report in my telegram No. 136 of the 24th ultimo, the Bulgarian delegates found little difficulty in agreeing to the [illegible] proposals of the two countries on the 3rd instant, and M. Majorescu was able to announce at the sitting of the Conference on the following day that a complete agreement between Roumania and Bulgaria had been reached. The terms of the agreement are briefly as follows:

1. A frontier starting from the Danube about 5 miles west of Tartukai, running some 6 miles south of Dobritch, and striking the Black Sea at a point some 8 miles south of Baltchik;

2. Privileges for the Koutzo-Vlachs in Bulgaria as prescribed in the St. Petersburgh protocol; and

3. The dismantling of all the fortifications in Rustchuk and Shumla and the engagement by Bulgaria not to construct any fortifications within a radius of 12½ miles of Baltchik.

In announcing to the Conference the agreement come to, M. Majorescu said that the arrangement was not regarded by the Roumanian Government as a separate agreement between Roumania and Bulgaria, but as a part of the labours of the Conference. It was only a beginning—a portion of the work destined to be included in the general result of the decisions of the Conference. His Excellency added that the private conferences between the other delegates had not yet produced a result which could be submitted to the Conference, and the negotiations must be hastened. M. Majorescu then proposed a three days' extension of the suspension of hostilities to the 8th August. M. Majorescu's disclaimer of a separate agreement with Bulgaria, reinforced as it was, I believe, by a much more categorical declaration in conversation with the Bulgarian delegates, was evidently needed, for Sir H. Bax-Ironside's telegram No. 335 of the 5th instant makes it clear that at Sophia the hope was still cherished of separating Roumania from her co-belligerents. The delegates in Bucharest at any rate must now have realised from M. Majorescu's language that there was no hope of impairing Roumania's solidarity with the allies, and that in these circumstances a renewal of hostilities was out of the question for Bulgaria, and she must make the best terms she could with Greece and Servia, trusting, perhaps, to a subsequent revision of the treaty by the Great Powers.

The divergence between the territorial claims of Bulgaria and of the allies as at first presented was of course very great. In the demands presented on the 1st instant to

the Bulgarian delegates by the allies *en bloc* Servia claimed the Struma as frontier, though early in the negotiations she so far reduced her demands as to consent to a frontier line which may be roughly described as running along the watershed of the Struma and the Upper Bregalnitza (which latter river I see is marked in some maps as the Zelevica), following this watershed round to the west to a point north-east of Strumnitza, and thence southwards, crossing the Strumitza River and terminating just north of Lake Doiran.

Greece at first claimed a frontier leaving the Ægean a few miles east of Makri and following a northerly direction until it reached the watershed between the Arda River to the north and the Mesta and smaller rivers, which flow into the Ægean to the east of it, to the south. The frontier then followed the crest of the mountains in a west-north-westerly direction until it reached a point about 2 miles south of Nopa. Here it turned west-south-west until it met the line of frontier demanded by Servia at the confluence of the Struma and the Bistritza. M. Venizelos, however, explained to the Bulgarian delegates that this was only Greece's maximum demand, and that she would content herself with a line starting from the Ægean not at Makri but at Porto Lagos. M Venizelos even went further, and told the Roumanian, but not the Bulgarian, delegates that at a pinch he would accept the mouth of the Mesta River as the starting point from the Ægean.

As against these territorial demands of the allies, the frontier proposed by Bulgaria left the old Bulgarian frontier at a point due west of Kustendil. It ran in a south-south-westerly direction to the confluence of the Bregalnitza and the Vardar Rivers, leaving Kukush and Istitib to Bulgaria. After crossing the Vardar, the line continued in the same direction for about 15 miles, when it turned south, passing about 16 miles east of Monastir, and then turning east through Dragomanci and along the crest of the Pajak Mountains until it again met the Vardar west of the Ardzan Lake. Here the line turned south again, and followed the course of the river for about 10 miles. It then ran eastwards until it reached the Gulf of Orfani at a point about 6 miles west of the mouth of the Struma.

The Bulgarian delegates endeavoured throughout to moderate the pretensions of the allies, and in this they were seconded by both the Austrian and Russian Ministers. The endeavours met, however, with little success, and the territorial arrangements finally agreed to in the plenary sitting of the Conference on the 6th instant differ little from what it was known from the first that Greece and Servia were prepared if necessary to accept, the main difference being that the new Bulgarian Servian frontier makes a great deal more than a slight detour as to give Strumnitz to Bulgaria. I understand that this arrangement was considered by the Bulgarian delegates to be preferable to the alternative offer of the Servian delegates that the country should be handed over to the west as to give Doiran to Bulgaria.

From the first it was apparent that the question of Cavalla and district was likely to prove the most dangerous stumbling block. Cavalla is coveted by both countries, not only as a port, but because of the revenues to be derived from the unrivalled tobacco which grows in the district, and both parties were unyielding until the decisive sitting of the 6th instant, by which time concession had been made easier for the Bulgarian delegates by the fact that the two Great Powers most directly interested in Balkan questions had each made to M. Maioresco a special reservation as to the right of the Powers to revise any decision of the Conference in regard to the fate of Cavalla.

The circumstances leading to this action of the Austrian and Russian Ministers are briefly as follows:—

On the second day of the Conference it had already become evident that the question of Cavalla would present great difficulties. The Bulgarian delegates were stubborn on the point, and M. Venizelos was quite uncompromising. His Excellency professed to the Roumanian delegates and some of my colleagues, however, that though he would not yield at the Conference, Greece would afterwards submit to the pressure of the Great Powers, if these were united in their insistence that Bulgaria should have Cavalla. In these circumstances M. Take Jonesco, in the course of a visit at the Russian Legation on the 31st ultimo, suggested that in order to guard against a breakdown of the Conference the representatives of the Great Powers should be authorised to declare to M. Maioresco that, whatever the decision come to by the Conference in regard to Cavalla, the Great Powers reserved the right to revise the decision. At a meeting the same evening at the Russian Legation, at which all the representatives of the Powers except the French Minister were present, it was decided that each should ask his

Government for authorisation to make the proposed declaration. The French Minister also telegraphed to his Government on the following morning. The responses from the various Governments to this proposal from the Ministers varied. The German Minister received no authorisation at all up to the moment when the declaration might have been needed, and the French Minister was only authorised to make it if expressly asked to do so by M. Maioresco as president of the Conference. Both the French and the German Governments are evidently anxious to avoid if possible any revision of the arrangements come to at Bucharest. You, sir, were good enough to authorise me in your telegram No. 41 to join in the proposed declaration if all my colleagues were similarly instructed, on the understanding that the declaration about Cavalla did not preclude the Powers from revising other points if they thought it necessary. I informed M. Maioresco of this telegram on the 3rd instant, leaving with him an *aide-mémoire* embodying its contents. The Italian Minister was only to make the declaration if all his colleagues did so. The Russian Minister had no instructions, but he received a telegram showing that his Government were in favour of a declaration in a form similar to the one which I was authorised to make. The Austrian Minister was the only one of my colleagues who was unconditionally authorised to make the declaration and he did so on the 4th instant, and the Russian Minister followed suit on the 6th instant. The latter had not yet received definite instructions, but as the most critical sitting of the Conference was to take place that afternoon he assumed the responsibility, and his action had since been approved.

The account I have just given of the circumstances attending the proposal that the fate of Cavalla should be reserved to the Powers, leads me on to say a few words about the rôles played by the representatives of the Great Powers at Bucharest during the Conference. The German Minister and I have been merely spectators, though, as explained above, we both joined in the proposal in regard to Cavalla, under the belief that if even partially adopted, as was the case, it would facilitate the conclusion of peace by making easier for the Bulgarian delegates a concession which might otherwise have proved too hard for them. My French colleague's attitude was neutral, and he frequently expressed to me his regret that there was not likewise a unity of allies and Powers. His view was that in the interest of general tranquillity the States at the Conference should be allowed to settle their differences without the interference of the Great Powers; he frankly condemned the proposal that the Powers' Governments should be told that any arrangement as to the distribution of territory would have to be ratified by the Great Powers. As already stated, M. Blondel's attitude was a neutral one, but I ought to mention that he was of great assistance during the decisive meeting of the Conference on the afternoon of the 6th instant, vigorously and usefully urging the necessity for conciliation upon the Greek Prime Minister. M. Blondel had gone to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at about 6 o'clock, by which time he had expected the sitting to have terminated, to enquire as to the results of the sitting. He found that a deadlock had arisen between the Greeks and the Bulgarians respecting a certain strategical position. The formal sitting had adjourned to give both parties a better opportunity for coming to terms. By chance or design M. Venizelos met M. Blondel in one of the side rooms. M. Maioresco was present, and M. Blondel joined the latter in his entreaties to M. Venizelos to give way, which M. Venizelos at length consented to do, provided General Cosmas, Chief of Roumanian delegate, gave his assurance as a man of honour and a military expert that the Greeks would not be at a military disadvantage if they accepted, instead of the disputed position, an alternative one which Bulgaria had suggested. This assurance General Coanda gave, and the Greeks and Bulgarians then came to terms.

The remaining three representatives have all been active, the Russian Minister by direct pressure on the Servians, and the Austrian Minister by using his influence with the Roumanian Government to moderate through them the pretensions of the allies. Both, as already reported, made the declaration regarding Cavalla, and the Austrian Minister made similar reserves about Kechana, the question of the fate of which town also threatened at one time to prove a stumbling block.

The Italian Minister has been active in support of Bulgaria, so much so as not only to incense M. Blondel, but even to displease M. Senebeko. I hear on good authority that at one time he supported the Bulgarians to the extent of urging the Roumanian delegates to threaten the allies that unless they abated their demands Roumania would separate herself from their cause, and that later, on the eve of the decisive sitting of the 6th instant, he advised the Bulgarian delegates to continue obstinate for a short space

Cavalla in the hope that all the representatives of the Great Powers would shortly be able to join in the reserves regarding that piece—a dangerous piece of advice, seeing that the suspension of hostilities was to expire in less than two days.

In conclusion, I would add a few words regarding Roumania's position. Through her participation in the recent war she has not only gained the frontier she desired, but she has frustrated Bulgaria's pretensions to the hegemony of the Balkans and despite the utterances of a portion of the British press, I think, in the light of recent events, that a fairer verdict would be that Roumania has deserved well of Europe. There is no doubt that Bulgaria's appetite for conquest had been whetted by her success against Turkey. She made no secret of the fact that she looked forward to fresh victories and to acquiring all the territory inhabited by men of the Bulgarian race that remained in the possession of the neighbouring States. It might therefore well be argued that the present settlement which has prevented Bulgaria from becoming stronger than her neighbours makes for a lasting peace; but, however this may be, Roumania's intervention at any rate had the effect of shortening the present war, of facilitating the making of peace, and, as I ventured to remark in my despatch No. 69A, of reducing the risk of active intervention from Austria. Roumania did not take advantage of her favourable position to extort exorbitant concessions, and her influence at the Conference has been used to moderate the demands of the allies and to prevent the too great weakening of Bulgaria, a course in strict conformity with the principle she set out to preserve—that of the balance of power in the Balkans. Her intervention seems to have had the effect of averting so dangerous a prospect as that of a general revision of the arrangement now come to. I take it that Austria and Russia are the only two of the five most important Great Powers who are in any way disposed to insist on any revision at all, and whatever may be the language of the Austrian and Russian press at this moment, I feel that it is a reasonable assumption that the interests towards Roumania and the desire that each Power feels for the closest relations with this country will deter the two Governments from insisting on a course which would be regarded by Roumania as an insult to her Sovereign and herself. In this connection I should mention that the Russian Minister, though annoyed at the decisions of the Conference in regard to Cavalla and Petritch, to the Servian frontier, does not seem to anticipate that his Government will insist on a revision by the Great Powers of the decision come to.

I enclose a copy of a map on which Colonel Lyon, military attaché to this legation, has roughly traced:

1. The original Greek and Servian demands;
2. The Bulgarian counter-proposals;
3. The frontiers as fixed at the Peace Conference; and
4. The approximate line of frontier between Servia and Greece according to the arrangement come to by the two countries before the war, the last mentioned line having been roughly traced for me by the Greek Prime Minister.

I have, &c.
G. BARCLAY.

P.S.—I have not been able to get a map which shows the places named in the description of the new Roumano-Bulgarian frontier described in the Annexe to Protocol No. 5.

G. B.

[37344] No. 238.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 425.)

Sir, *Paris, August 12, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a statement, bearing the appearance of an official communiqué, is published in this evening's issue of the "Temps" to the following effect:—

The moment appears to have come to clear up the contradictory reports which have been published in regard to the attitude of the French and Russian Governments respectively in the matter of Cavalla.

Neither of the two Governments have at any time requested the other to renounce

its point of view; on the other hand, each Government has kept the other constantly informed of its wishes in the matter.

Russia was aware that France inclined to the view that Cavalla, a Greek town, should be assigned to Greece. France likewise knew of the desire of Russia to obtain this port on the Ægean for Bulgaria.

The two Governments were aware that neither of them attached so great an importance to its opinion as to demand that its ally should abandon its preference since the tendencies of the general policy of the Powers and the facts of the situation were bound to bring them into line with one or other of the two solutions.

There is no need further to insist on the matter, as the question of revising the Treaty of Bucharest has to-day been decided in the negative. What remains certain is that the contact between the two countries has never been closer than at the present moment.

I beg leave to add that a telegram from the St. Petersburgh correspondent of the "Temps" states that Russia has abandoned the idea of revising the Bucharest Treaty.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

[37389] No. 239.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 13.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 12, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated to-day, from the vice-admiral second in command, Mediterranean.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure in No. 239.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *August 12, 1913.*

AS the work of regulating the finances of Scutari and keeping accounts of meeting of arrears previously done by the late Commission is becoming too heavy for the International Commissioner, Civil Secretary, representing two of the Powers to be sent to Scutari at once.

[37451] No. 240.

Sir P. Harvey to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 14.)

Sir, *[Undated.]*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of the reports on the proceedings of the three Committees of the Balkan Financial Commission, which have examined respectively the questions of the Ottoman Debt, of claims to compensation, and of Turkish concessions in the ceded territories.

The first of these reports has been drawn up by myself, the second by one of the French delegates, M. Luquet, and the third by an Austrian delegate, M. d'Adler.

The first two of these reports—that dealing with the Ottoman Debt and that dealing with claims to compensation—are designed to place the Financial Commission and the Powers in possession of all the facts and considerations bearing on these questions.

The third Committee, dealing with concessions, has only completed a small portion of its task, and will continue the consideration of the subject-matter before it in the autumn.

I will accordingly confine myself in this despatch to the questions involved in the two first reports.

In order to make the general purport of these reports clear, it may be useful if I offer the following explanations —

At the outset of the Commission's labours the Balkan delegations showed great reluctance to undertake the examination of the question of the participation of their Governments in the Turkish Debt except in conjunction with the question of the payment by Turkey of a war indemnity. Considerable difficulty was found in inducing them to deal with the first of these questions, while reserving the point of principle involved in the second. In order to overcome this difficulty two Committees were formed—one to examine the share of the Turkish Debt which should fall to the Balkan States in virtue of their annexation of part of the Turkish territories; the other to consider the claims of the belligerents to "pecuniary compensation" arising out of the war. The two Committees were to sit on alternate days, and the two questions were thus to be dealt with concurrently as desired by the Balkan delegations. The reference to the second Committee was so worded as to avoid the admission of the principle that a war indemnity was due.

While the Committee of the Debt has been able, under the very capable presidency of M. Helfferich (of the Deutsche Bank and Bagdad Railway), to make a thorough, if not quite complete, examination of the Debt question, the Committee on Claims to Compensation has, by the nature of the case, been precluded from doing very much.

At the latter Committee the Balkan delegations first put in claims for reimbursement by Turkey of their war expenses, amounting according to their statement, to some 75,000,000*l.** To this demand the Turkish delegation opposed an absolute refusal even to discuss the claim. The proposal of the president of the Committee, M. Ratchkovich, that the Committee should enter upon an examination of the financial situation of Turkey and the Balkan States with a view to seeing whether Turkey could support the charge of a war indemnity, met with opposition, principally from myself, and it was not persisted in.

The Balkan delegations then put in a number of subsidiary claims amounting to about 6,000,000*l.* in respect of the maintenance of Turkish prisoners of war, repatriation of Ottoman subjects, detention of merchant-ships and other property of the allies by Turkey at the outset. These claims were the subject of a certain measure of discussion.

I do not think that the considerations bearing on these various claims could be put more concisely than they are in pp. 9–18 of M. Luquet's report, which moreover indicate with precision the principle reserved for discussion, a point it is necessary that the British delegation should receive instructions as to its future attitude.

The present position as regards each category of claim may perhaps be indicated very briefly as follows:—

Nature of Claim	Amount of Claim	How dealt with
	£	
Annuity	24,756,752	Consideration refused by the Ottoman delegation.
Repatriation of Turkish refugees	160,000	Accepted in principle by Ottoman delegation.
Maintenance of prisoners of war	2,179,712	Rejected by Ottoman delegation, except as regards pay of officer prisoners.
Seizure by Turkey of Servian waggons and war material	246,696	Reserved, pending receipt of details of claim.
Losses caused to inhabitants of Epirus by Turkish army	439,850	Reserved
Losses caused to Greek subjects by Turkish Empire [illegible] expeditions, &c.	1,643,000	
Losses caused to Servian subjects by invasion of Turkish troops	80,000	
Sundry claims of Turkish Government to agencies of Ottoman Bank situated in ceded territories	Not fixed	Objected to by Turkish delegation as being outside competence of the Commission.
Various minor Turkish claims	1,062,236	Referred to arbitration.
Total	100,565,250	

* This was subsequently increased to 95,000,000*l.* by the inclusion of the capital value of the pensions which Bulgaria and Greece would have to pay as a result of the war.

Turning now to the Committee of the Debt, it may be said that the views and proposals put forward in this Committee resolved themselves into two categories: those of the delegations representing at least the majority* of the Great Powers and Turkey on the one hand, and those of the Balkan delegations on the other.

Broadly speaking, the view of the former delegations was that the Balkan States should take over a share of the Turkish Debt based either on the proportion which the general revenues of the ceded territories bear to those of the Turkish Empire as a whole, or on the proportion which the revenues specially assigned to the service of the Debt in the ceded territories bear to the same revenues in the remainder of the Turkish dominions. There was a certain amount of diversity of view among the different delegations of the first group as to which of these methods of calculation should be chosen, and on the points of detail where the extraordinary complexity of the Turkish Debt furnished in great abundance. It may be said that the German delegation were inclined to expand to the utmost the share of the Debt which should be laid to the charge of the Balkan States, while the Russian delegation urged every possible point that told in favour of its reduction. It is satisfactory to find, however, that the various calculations embodying the different views put forward on behalf of the Great Powers produce results which do not differ very materially. As will be seen on reference to pp. 39 and 40 of the report on the work of the Committee of the Debt, the share of the nominal capital of the Funded Debt and of the temporary loans and Treasury bills of the Turkish Government which would fall to the Balkan States under various hypotheses varies only from about £T. 22,500,000 to about £T. 24,000,000. It is true that these hypotheses do not take into account all the suggestions which were laid before the Committee with a view either to inflating or reducing the Balkan share of the Debt. But it seems to me that the more extreme proposals on either hand may be set off against each other, and that the equitable share may fairly be held to fall somewhere within the two limits set out above.

It should be borne in mind, firstly, that the above figures represent a nominal amount of debt, the basis on which the conversion of this into cash equivalent would be made would require discussion, but for the purpose of a rough-and-ready calculation this basis may perhaps be taken at 90 per cent. of the portion representing funded loans, and 100 per cent. of the remainder; that is to say, that the Balkan share of the Turkish Debt might be discharged by a cash payment of 80 per cent. of say £T. 23,500,000, which is £T. 19,350,000, plus £T. 1,500,000, or £T. 20,850,000, which in sterling is equivalent to 18,765,000*l.* (It need hardly be added that this conversion into a cash equivalent is put forward rather to give an idea of the real magnitude of the sum involved than to suggest that in the present financial situation of the Balkan States any such simple solution as an immediate cash payment is practicable.

It should be remembered, in the second place, that the Balkan delegations have by no means admitted the idea of the payment of any capitalised sum. Although there was, I believe, unanimity among the delegations of the Great Powers as to the advantages which such a solution would present, the question has not been even discussed as yet with the Balkan delegations, and that for the good reason that, as I will now explain, these delegations have not admitted that any annuity is payable by them at all.

The point of view of the Balkan delegations may be stated as follows:

We are not required either by international law or equity to take over any share of the public debt of Turkey as a consequence of the annexation of part of her territory. But we are prepared to recognise that Turkey's creditors must not suffer by the change in the situation of the European provinces of Turkey, and that it is the duty of the annexing States to protect them from any loss arising from the annexation. We accordingly propose to protect the creditors, but in a manner which will not at the same time constitute an alleviation of Turkish finances, such as would result from the assumption by us of part of the Turkish Debt. We therefore make the following calculation: we establish the annual sum necessary for the service of the Turkish Debt, and the amount yielded by the revenues assigned to the Debt in the territories which will remain Turkish. Any amount by which the latter sum is insufficient to cover the service of the Turkish Debt we will undertake to make good, up to the amount of an annual sum equivalent to that yielded by the assigned revenues in the annexed territories in the past. Thus the bondholders will be left in the situation which has been theirs hitherto, while the charge on Turkish finances will not be alleviated.

* The precise attitude of Russia and Italy was never, I think, made quite clear by their delegations.

Apart from the fact that the result of the above operation would not be to leave the bondholders precisely where they were before—for from the creditor's point of view a guarantee is not equivalent to the actual encashment of an assigned revenue—it is difficult to deny that some such arrangement as the above would in theory suffice to protect the bondholders, however inconvenient and objectionable they might find it in practice. It would, however, of course, leave Turkey in a far worse financial situation than she has occupied in the past, since she would, with territory and revenue reduced, have to bear practically the same debt charge as hitherto.

To the claim that they should, in equity, do more than they propose, and take over an actual share of the Turkish Debt, the Balkan States oppose the counter-claim for a war indemnity, pleading the financial straits to which they have been reduced by the war, the long period that must elapse before substantial recuperation and development of the annexed territories can be hoped for, and the probable effect on the situation of their own creditors caused by an increase of the burden of their debt beyond that already rendered necessary by the expenses of the war.

The difference between the demand of the Powers and the offer of the Balkan States is really one of point of view: the former aim at leaving both Turkey and her creditors in the same relative situation as they were before the loss of Turkey's European provinces, the latter claim that all that can be asked of them is the protection of the interests of the bondholders as a body.

The next question arises: What is the sum which, in the face of their own contentions, the Balkan States would have to pay? The Balkan delegations put in to the Commission two tables (Tableaux XIV A) et (B), of the report of the Debt Committee, intended to establish that the assigned revenues in the territories remaining under Turkish sovereignty would suffice for the whole service of the Debt. This calculation is, however, open to two objections. In the first place, the revenues assigned severally to the service of the various loans are thrown into a common fund and made available for the service of the whole of the annuities. This is in conflict with the contracts of the loans in question; the creditors of Loan A have no claim on the revenues assigned to the service of Loan B, and it would be no compensation to them for the inadequacy of their revenues that those assigned to Loan B showed a surplus. In strictness, therefore, the deficiency on the revenues assigned to each loan must be calculated severally, and the total of such deficiencies laid at the charge of the Balkan States, without setting off thereagainst the surpluses which may emerge on the service of other loans.

The second objection which may be taken to the Balkan calculation is that it includes among the assigned revenues the yield of the 3 per cent. customs surtax. It is contended that the Powers having only consented to this until the year 1914, it is impossible at this moment to reckon on its renewal and count it as a revenue which will be available after the above date. This view has not been universally accepted, the Balkan delegations being inclined to argue that it should be included or omitted according as, in fact, it proves hereafter to be renewed or not.

The effect of its omission from the calculations would be to increase the insufficiency of the assigned revenues in the Turkish territories to £T. 863,366.*

It would thus appear that the share of the Ottoman Debt which should be taken over by the Balkan States is estimated at about £T 23,000,000 (nominal value) according to the systems advocated by the delegations of the Great Powers, and at a figure varying, according to various hypotheses, from zero to about £T. 20,000,000 on the system advocated by the Balkan delegations.

The difficulty is to see how sufficient pressure is to be brought to bear upon the Balkan States to induce them to accept against their will a share of the Debt approaching £T. 23,000,000, or even £T. 20,000,000, without the compensation of a war indemnity.

Recent events have no doubt modified the situation in the sense that Bulgaria could hardly now put forward a claim against Turkey for a war indemnity. On the other hand, the last war has doubtless still further strained the financial resources of Greece and Servia, and, although these States will benefit by larger accessions of territory, it is doubtful whether their straitened financial situation will not make them more reluctant than ever to undertake a heavy liability towards Turkey's creditors

* See footnote to p. 41 of the Report. Roughly equivalent to £17,250,000 of the nominal value of the funded debt. To this would have to be added a share of the advances and Treasury bills, say, £T. 1,500,000: total, £T 18,750,000. It should be noted further that the Balkan calculation is based on that view of the question discussed at pp. 23–4 of the Report, which is more favourable to the Balkan States. The opposite view would have the effect of adding about £T 80,000 a year or £T 1,600,000, to the above figures.

without substantial compensation. The chief means of pressure the Powers appear to possess consists in the possibility of refusing facilities to the Balkan States on the European money markets. It is a question to what extent such pressure would really prove effective. The financial strain imposed on the Balkan States by their two wars must be very great, and their need for financial assistance correspondingly pressing. It seems unlikely, nevertheless, that this source of pressure alone would, unless strenuously exercised for a prolonged period, suffice to make them accept their full mathematical share of the Turkish Debt.

Should it, on the other hand, be felt that, in view of their difficult situation, it would not be fair to require the Balkan States to assume this full mathematical share of the Turkish Debt without any compromise, and if, in these circumstances, it should be decided to have recourse to a compromise, it might perhaps be arranged that the Balkan States should assume their full share of the Debt which is to say, namely, £T. 23,000,000, and should receive a war indemnity of an amount to be determined. This could be provided by Turkey out of a loan guaranteed on the 3 per cent. surtax, which it is assumed the Powers would consent to renew. This surtax, to the extent to which it is not pledged to the bondholders, would, in the territories remaining under Turkish sovereignty, yield about £T. 640,000, which at 5 per cent. would suffice for the service of a loan of £T 12,800,000.

My reason for suggesting that the Balkan States should assume the gross liability of £T. 23,000,000, balanced in part by an indemnity rather than the net liability, is that the bondholders would thus obtain the full compensation for the reduction of their security to which they are entitled. Moreover, the distribution among the various creditors of Turkey of the sums paid by the Balkan States will present considerable difficulties, which will be very greatly increased unless the sum paid is calculated on some one of the principles on which their claims are based, and distributed in accordance with that principle.

If the payment of any indemnity by Turkey were felt to present too great difficulties, it might be arranged that the £T 23,000,000 required for reduction of the existing Turkish Debt should be provided in part by a contribution from the Balkan States and in part out of the proceeds of a new Turkish loan guaranteed on the 3 per cent. surtax.

It will, I think, be evident from what I have written that the next step in the negotiations with regard to the Turkish Debt and the indemnity must be taken by the Powers. It does not appear that the International Commission can advance matters further at this stage. The Commission can receive a reply to its unanimous vote, and it is clear that pressure from the Powers will have to be exercised on the Balkan States to induce them to accept less favourable terms than they at present hold out for. It would seem therefore that no useful purpose can be served by a further meeting of the International Commission (unless it be to continue its work in the matter of Turkish concessions) until the general lines of a settlement on the debt and indemnity questions have been arrived at. It is, I understand, the view of the president of the International Commission and of the French Government that it is now for the Powers to agree among themselves, in the light of the reports which are herewith presented, what would be a fair settlement as between Turkey and the Balkan States.

I have, &c.
H. P. HARVEY

[37925] No. 241.

Memorandum communicated by M. de Fleuriau, August 13, 1913.

L'AMBASSADEUR de Russie à Paris a dit hier à M. Pichon que son Gouvernement cherchait à obtenir l'occupation d'Andrinople sans avoir recours à des moyens actifs de pression sur la Turquie. En conséquence, M. Sazonof estime que le procédé le plus effectif pour le résoudre serait une déclaration très nette de la Russie, de la France et de la Grande-Bretagne affirmant que toute tentative faite en dehors de la Turquie par les États balkaniques pour s'emparer d'Andrinople serait considérée par elles comme un casus belli.

M. Pichon a répondu que le Gouvernement russe avait exagéré sur le concours du Gouvernement français pour exercer une pression sur la Turquie par le refus de concours financier. Mais il a fait observer que la mesure

proposée par M. Sazonof pourrait être utilisée à leur profit par les Puissances qui n'y participeraient pas et qu'elle ne serait vraiment effective que si toutes les Puissances l'adoptaient.

Ambassade de France, Londres,
le 13 août, 1913.

[37496] No. 242

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 13.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 13, 1913.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 12th instant, which has been sent to Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney.

I am, &c
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure in No. 242

Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, August 12, 1913.*

THE Foreign Office do not understand, with reference to your letter to Constantinople, why Ottoman Government should be asked to repay first instalment of cost of bridge if Scutari repays remainder. Report principle on which your recommendation was based, as it appears just that whole amount should be repaid by municipality, as bridge exclusively benefits town.

[37395] No. 243.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Cettinjé, August 12, 1913.*

REPORT sent to Vienna from Vallona states that tribes of Hoti and Gruda have taken up arms against annexation to Montenegro. I cannot confirm report, which is at least premature. Montenegrins have not yet occupied country, but will probably meet with resistance if they attempt to do so.

[37502] No. 244.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Bucharest, August 13, 1913.*

ROYAL decree, just published, orders gradual demobilisation to begin to-day.

Bulgarian delegates leave to-day, Greek, Servian, and Montenegrin to-morrow.

(Sent to Athens, Belgrade, and Sophia.)

[37498] No. 245.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair* *Belgrade, August 13, 1913.*

DECREE for demobilisation issued to-day.

[37501] No. 246.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 13, 1913.*

I LEARN that the Russian Minister is personally not in favour of revision of the Treaty of Peace. He considers that, were revision to take place on any one point, Austria-Hungary would take advantage of this in order to obtain general revision, and that internal complications would finally ensue. I gather that Russian Minister has expressed this view to his Government.

[37494] No. 247.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Marienbad, August 13, 1913*

BALKANS.

I have the impression, from information which reaches here, that great uncertainty exists at Austro-Hungarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs as to how this country should act with regard to Treaty of Peace signed at Bucharest. While peace negotiations were going on the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs repeatedly told me he would insist on revision by the Powers of any Treaty of Peace which would eventually be signed. Practical difficulties, however, which have arisen with regard to the carrying out of this idea, which if persisted in might expose Austria-Hungary to a diplomatic rebuff, make the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs afraid to commit himself definitely in the matter. Telegram from the German Emperor to the King of Roumania, which practically endorses Bucharest treaty, has left depressing impression on official circles in Vienna, and I very much doubt whether the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs will set himself resolutely in opposition to German views.

The more or less independent press is gradually resigning itself to seeing the Bucharest treaty ratified by the Powers practically unchanged, and semi-official organs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs remain singularly silent with regard to it.

[37495] No. 248.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 403.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 13, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 390 of 8th August.

The Russian Ambassador has been informed of your instructions to myself. He represents that the *démarche* contemplated would be equivalent to inviting the Turks to go further, and strongly deprecates any representations in the sense indicated being made here.

I entirely agree with his Excellency (see my telegram No. 401 of 11th August).

[37497] No. 249.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Crackanthorpe.

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 13, 1913.*

FOLLOWING declaration was agreed to at Ambassadors' meeting on 11th August:—

"Le libre accès aux marchés de Djakova et de Dibra est assuré aux habitants des districts limitrophes de l'Albanie, ces deux villes ayant servi de tout temps auxdits habitants de marchés indispensables pour leur existence économique. Ils pourront

donc venir dans ces villes, apporter leurs produits pour les y vendre et y acheter les articles de leurs besoins sans qu'une restriction quelconque leur soit imposée ou qu'on fasse dépendre ce libre accès de conditions quelconques. Il est bien entendu qu'ils auront à se conformer aux lois et aux règlements douaniers et de police en vigueur.

"La réunion est d'avis qu'il y a lieu d'adopter ce projet, et pense qu'il doit être communiqué au Gouvernement serbe par les représentants des Puissances."

You should act accordingly when your colleagues are instructed.

[31485] No. 250.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 502.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1913.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 413 of the 2nd instant, I transmit to your Excellency herewith draft of an identic note which, I would suggest, should be addressed to the Greek Government by the representatives of the three protecting Powers of the Island of Samos.

In submitting this draft to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, your Excellency should inform M. Pichon that I have instructed His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to ask whether the Russian Government would be willing to instruct their representative at Athens to join with his British and French colleagues in an identic protest of this nature and, in the event of an affirmative reply being returned to this enquiry, to submit the proposed draft to the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs and to ascertain whether he would be prepared to agree to its terms if the French Government were also ready to accept them.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 250

Draft of Note to be communicated by British, French, and Russian Representatives at Athens to Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs.

M. le Ministre,

D'ORDRE de mon Gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence les faits suivants :—

Les autorités helléniques, qui avaient pris possession de Samos au cours des récentes hostilités, avaient bien laissé les services de la Dette publique ottomane fonctionner dans cette île comme par le passé, mais, par lettre en date du 17 (30) mars dernier, elles réclamèrent à l'agent local du corps d'Administration de cette Dette la somme de 75,000 piastres, représentant le terme semestriel dû par la Dette à la principauté en vertu de la convention conclue à la date du 12 (24) mars, 1895, entre l'Administration de la Dette publique ottomane et la principauté de Samos pour l'affermage des salines de cette île, et renouvelée depuis lors tous les cinq ans.

En vertu de cette convention, ladite Administration est tenue de verser chaque exercice au Gouvernement princier la somme de 150,000 piastres, payable par semestre.

Prévoyant le retour de l'île au *statu quo ante* dès la conclusion de la paix, l'Administration ne se trouva pas à même, sans déroger à ses engagements antérieurs et sans s'exposer à mal payer, de donner suite à la demande des autorités helléniques.

Faisant suite à la demande précitée, le Gouvernement provisoire hellénique a remis, par une lettre en date du 16 (29) mai écoulé, avancé par M. Soufoulis à l'agent local à Samos, M. Piccinini, une sommation définitive, qui fixa un délai de dix jours pour le versement des 75,000 piastres réclamées et des intérêts de cette somme depuis le 7 mars dernier, ainsi que la mise en état des salines suivant les exigences des autorités du Gouvernement provisoire hellénique; faute de quoi, les salines seraient saisies et exploitées par ces dernières, qui exigeraient en outre de la Dette publique, en dehors des sommes précitées, un montant de 90,000 fr. pour les travaux de réparation des salines.

Cet ultimatum, dont votre Excellence voudra bien trouver copie sous ce pli, aurait déjà reçu un commencement d'exécution par la saisie dans l'île des dépôts de sel de l'Administration.

Or, bien qu'un Gouvernement provisoire *de facto* soit substitué à l'ancienne principauté, mon Gouvernement est d'avis que *de jure* ledit Gouvernement provisoire ne saurait exiger l'exécution à sa faveur du contrat antérieurement conclu avec celle-ci tant que les Puissances protectrices n'auront pas notifié leur reconnaissance du fait accompli à Samos par ce changement de régime.—

En admettant même l'hypothèse d'une telle reconnaissance, le procédé du Gouvernement provisoire samien n'en resterait pas moins d'une incorrection notoire, car c'est au siège central de la Dette publique à Constantinople qu'il aurait dû faire parvenir ses réclamations par telle voie que de droit au lieu de les adresser à l'agent local de l'Administration, dont la compétence ne saurait s'étendre au litige en question et qui doit nécessairement se borner en l'occurrence à exécuter les ordres qui lui sont donnés.

En présence des faits précités, j'ai l'honneur d'inviter votre Excellence de faire donner d'urgence à l'Administration provisoire de Samos les instructions nécessaires pour qu'elle renonce derechef à ses prétentions arbitraires et injustifiées vis-à-vis de la Dette publique ottomane et qu'elle se dessaisisse des dépôts de sel appartenant à la Dette dont elle aurait pris possession.

Je suis chargé, en outre, de proposer à votre Excellence comme solution provisoire de la question en litige que les sommes provenant de l'affermage des salines de Samos soient mises sous séquestre jusqu'au moment où la situation de l'île aura fait l'objet d'un examen des Puissances signataires du protectorat de 1882.

[35878] No. 251.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 503.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1913.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople enclosing copy of a statement drawn up by the consular officers of the Six Great Powers at Rodosto confirming the reports of His Majesty's consul with regard to the responsibility of the Turkish authorities for the massacres which have taken place at that place and in the surrounding district.†

You should enquire of M. Pichon whether he has read this report, which has presumably been sent to him as it is signed by the French consular representative as well as by His Majesty's vice-consul, and what his Excellency's opinion is as to taking any action on it.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[31485] No. 252

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan

(No. 280.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1913

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of correspondence,‡ from which you will perceive that the Council of the Ottoman Debt have addressed a complaint to the Ambassadors of the protecting Powers of the island of Samos against the high-handed action of the Greek authorities in the island in demanding payment to them of sums due by the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt to the Government of the principality.

* Also to Sir R. Rodd (No. 202), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 162), Earl Granville (No. 254), and Sir G. Buchanan (No. 279), *mutatis mutandis*.

† No. 51

‡ Sir G. Lowther, No. 440, May 19; to Sir F. Bertie, No. 361, June 12; Mr. Marling, No. 5 of July draft identic note to Greek Government (see enclosure in No. 502, August 13, to Paris); Sir F. Bertie No. 365, July 8; to Sir F. Bertie, No. 453, July 22; Sir F. Bertie, No. 413, August 2, 1913.

Your Excellency will observe that the French Government concur in the view which I have expressed to them, that the representatives of Great Britain, France, and Russia at Athens should be instructed to make a formal and identic protest against the proceedings of the Hellenic authorities in Samos, provided that the Russian Government assent.

Your Excellency should bring these facts to the knowledge of the Russian Government, and enquire whether they would be willing to instruct their representative at Athens to join with his British and French colleagues in a protest of the nature described.

In the event of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs assenting to this course, your Excellency should submit to him the draft identic note which is enclosed herewith, informing him that it is also being submitted to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and enquiring whether he would be prepared to agree to its terms if the French Government were also ready to accept them.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[31664] No. 253.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Johnstone.

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 13, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 4 of the 7th instant, I transmit to you herewith copy of a resolution agreed to at the meeting of the Conference of Ambassadors held here on the 7th ult.mo.*

On the 8th August, the resolution having been confirmed by the five Governments, instructions were sent to His Majesty's Minister at Stockholm to approach the Swedish Government in its sense, but on the same day the Swedish Minister at this Court informed me that the Swedish Government, having already sent a number of officers to Persia, were unable to undertake to provide them for Albania also. In these circumstances it was decided to abandon the application to the Swedish Government and to apply to the Netherlands Government instead.

When the time comes to make this application you should acquaint the Netherlands Government with the procedure proposed in the resolution, which was to have been communicated to the Swedish Government.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[37933] No. 254.

Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville.

(No. 261.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 13, 1913.*

I OBSERVED to the German Ambassador this afternoon that it seemed likely that Russia would acquiesce in the retention of Cavalla by Greece, though I had not heard that M. Sazonof had yet come to this decision. Should it turn out to be so, it would seem to Russia more essential than ever to insist upon the recovery of Adrianople for Bulgaria. The reply of Turkey to the representation of the Powers on this point had been civil, but negative. If nothing more was to be done by the Powers, Russia would be face to face with the question of separate action of a forcible kind. It would, therefore, be desirable that further resort should be had to diplomatic pressure, in the hope of avoiding this contingency. I thought that the basis which the German Government had suggested for negotiation with the Turks was the one on which to proceed, and I hoped, therefore, that the German Government would keep it alive.

The Ambassador said that the proposal had met with difficulties on some points, such as that of the tariff, on the part of one or two of the Powers, and he thought that his Government were inclined to drop it, because it did not seem likely to be acceptable.

* See Proceedings of Conference of Ambassadors, July 7, 1913.

I said that I had not gathered that it was unacceptable in St. Petersburgh, and it was there that it seemed to me most important for Germany to discuss the matter.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[37934] No. 255.

Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville.

(No. 262.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 13, 1913.*

I TOLD the German Ambassador to-day that the decisions come to about the southern Albanian frontier had somehow leaked out in Rome, and had appeared in the "Tribuna." Already the Greek Government had protested to me on the subject of Koritza. The German Emperor had apparently great influence with the King of Greece, and I thought that it should be pointed out to Greece that it was most unwise on her part to dispute the decision of the Powers about the southern frontier of Albania at a moment when the question whether the Treaty of Bucharest should be modified, as regards Cavalla, hung in the balance. Greece could not have everything, and if she was to keep Cavalla she ought not to make difficulties about the southern frontier of Albania. If she did so, Powers such as Russia, Austria, and Italy, who were known to wish Bulgaria to have Cavalla, would certainly make difficulties for her, and she might find herself in difficulties not only about Cavalla, but also about the Ægean islands. It was true that no modifications could be made in the Treaty of Bucharest unless they were imposed by force, and that the Powers were very reluctant to do anything of the sort; but if Greece refused to evacuate districts which the Powers had decided must remain to southern Albania, she would run the risk of provoking the use of force on the part of Austria and Italy.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[36713] No. 256.

Sir Edward Grey to Tewfik Pasha.

Your Highness, *Foreign Office, August 13, 1913.*

WITH reference to the memorandum which your Highness was good enough to communicate to me on the 6th instant relative to the situation at Rodosto and in the surrounding districts, I have the honour to inform you that the information at my disposal tends to show that although it is true that order was restored at Rodosto itself twenty-four hours after disturbances broke out, disorder only began at Malgara and elsewhere two days subsequent to the outbreak at Rodosto, and had not ceased at the time when the last report on the subject was addressed to me.

It has further been reported to me that Hadji Sherif and another Moslem were condemned to death, but His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople is unable to assure me that the sentences have been carried out.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[36847] No. 257.

Sir Edward Grey to Tewfik Pasha.

Your Highness, *Foreign Office, August 13, 1913.*

WITH reference to your communication of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Minister at Sophia has reported that, according to an official report issued by the Bulgarian Government, the Turkish prisoners at

Stara Zagora, excited by the Turkish advance, endeavoured to escape and seize arms. They were shot down in a mêlée, and it is said that some 500 were killed.

Sir H Dax-Ironside states that independent accounts which he has received substantially confirm this statement.

I have, &c.
E. GREY

[31751] No. 258.

Foreign Office to Board of Trade

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 13, 1913.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th April last and previous correspondence relative to foreign shipping interests in the waters and harbours of the Balkan States, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Board of Trade, translation of a further note from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador,* submitting further arguments in support of the view held by his Government, and asking for their friendly consideration by His Majesty's Government.

I am also to transmit a memorandum on this subject and a general memorandum on British rights as regards navigation, shipping, and coasting trade in the Ottoman Empire, which have been prepared in this Department.

I am to request that Sir E. Grey may be favoured at as early a date as may be convenient with the detailed observations of the Board of Trade on the points raised in these documents, and to inform you that the Austrian Embassy have suggested unofficially that the questions at issue should, in the first place, be informally discussed at a conference between a member of that embassy and representatives of His Majesty's Government.

I am to state that Sir E. Grey is disposed, with the concurrence of the Board, to comply with this suggestion, and to say, if it is carried out, it would, in his opinion, be well that a representative of your Department should be present, as well as a member of this Office.

I am, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

Enclosure 1 in No. 258.

Memorandum.

PROBABLY it will be most convenient to consider the various points raised as much as possible in the order that they appear in the Austrian memorandum.

There seems no ground for the assertion in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the memorandum. I can find no instance where a Government has refused of recent years to recognise its treaty obligations as extending automatically to all territory which it has subsequently annexed or incorporated. The numerous cases quoted in the accompanying library memorandum all go to show that previous treaty rights are extinguished by cession and replaced by the treaties of the annexing Power.

We may take it, therefore, that Greece and Bulgaria can raise no objection to our treaties being enforced in the annexed territories.

It would of course be possible for the Powers in the present case to insist, as an exception to the general rule, that the Capitulations should be maintained in the ceded territories, as was done in 1878 in the case of Servia and Bulgaria,† but such a course would be hardly justifiable in the present instance, seeing that Europe has got on for many years without any Capitulations in Greece, and is on the point of renouncing them in Bulgaria (Austria has, in fact, already done so, and His Majesty's Government have agreed in principle). In any case, the Austrian Government recognise in paragraphs 11 and 12 that the Capitulations if maintained would apply only to the new territories, and would therefore be useless for the purpose they have in view, which is to impose

* Count Mensdorff June 27 1913.

† The two cases are not quite similar. Bulgaria in 1878 was an entirely new State, autonomous, tributary, and under suzerainty of the Sultan. There was no question of merely adding Turkish territory to an already existing State.

on Bulgaria and Greece an interminable treaty, to be binding on all their territories—both new and old.

In paragraph 13 the Austrians have to confess that they propose to impose entirely new obligations on the Balkan States, as far as their original territories are concerned. They deny, however, in paragraph 13 that these obligations are incompatible with the full enjoyment of sovereign rights. On this point I think we are bound to disagree. Article 2, paragraph 3, and article 4 of the Austrian proposals* are servitudes which constitute a clear derogation of sovereign rights, and it might even be argued that the sovereignty of a State is impaired by the very fact of its being bound against its will—as is proposed in the present case—by an entirely unilateral commercial agreement which it cannot denounce.

The Austrians justify the proposal by arguing, in paragraphs 9, 10, 14–16, that the Balkan States must be bound down by an interminable arrangement in order to prevent them from penalising foreign shipping and commerce. The Austrian Government may have reasons of its own for fearing such treatment, but I cannot see why His Majesty's Government should be in the least anxious.

The Austrians are of course right in saying, in paragraph 8, that our treaties with Greece and Bulgaria† are both terminable at a year's notice, but they advance no valid evidence to show that the two countries will now [illegible] entirely new policy of hostility to foreign trade and shipping.

In any case, apart from the question of international law, would it from a political point of view be to the advantage of His Majesty's Government to agree with Austria in preventing the Balkan States for all future time from excluding foreign shipping from the benefits of national treatment, should they at any time wish to do so, in order to develop their own shipping? Such a fettering restriction would naturally arouse great bitterness, and the commercial advantage might not be counterbalanced with the ill feeling which it would provoke.

The arguments used in the memorandum are not very convincing. For instance, I do not understand why, because, as stated in paragraph 10, there are no suitable wet quays, docks, &c., in the ceded territories, the Balkan States should proceed to penalise foreign shipping.

Again, as regards paragraph 14, the transit rights to be accorded to Servia and Roumania will surely be guaranteed in the final peace treaty in a more direct and definite form than in the present proposals, which do not even mention the subject. It is interesting to see Austria so anxious to safeguard the commercial interests of Servia, but the subject is really quite irrelevant.

As regards paragraph 15, it is surely incorrect to say that Greek shipping is negligible. At all events, the question as to how far His Majesty's Government could bring pressure to bear on the Greek Government in the event of their treating British shipping badly, or of their forming a hostile customs union with Bulgaria is one for the Board of Trade to consider. I can hardly believe that we should be as powerless as the Austrians imply.

After advancing these general arguments in favour of the Austrian proposals, the memorandum goes on to explain in detail the nature of each provision—they have already been examined here—but certain fresh points are to be noted.

The proposals may be grouped as follows:—

1. National treatment in the coasting trade.
2. National treatment in navigation generally and specifically as regards dues, loading, unloading, warehousing, &c.
3. Stipulations that dues are to be levied only when the service for which they are intended is effectually performed.
4. Right for foreign vessels to use their own tugs, lighters, workmen, &c., in unloading in Balkan ports.
5. National treatment in the navigation of rivers, channels, and lakes.

First of all it must be conceded that Nos. 1 and 2 find their counterpart, and 5 a very limited basis in the Capitulations or else in other Turkish treaties the benefits of which His Majesty's Government enjoy in virtue of their most-favoured-nation treatment under the Capitulations.

* Forwarded to Board of Trade in Foreign Office letter of February 14, 1913 [5976].

† As a matter of fact, if Bulgaria did denounce her present treaty with us, we could presumably claim that the régime of the Capitulations, provided we had not renounced them in the meantime, should automatically replace it and thereby give us most of the rights secured by the present Austrian proposals.

We can claim Nos. 1 and 2 in virtue of our Greek treaty, and No. 2 in virtue of that with Bulgaria.

As regards No. 1, the Austrians are afraid that the trade between Greece and Crete and Salonica will be declared a coasting trade (see paragraph 22). I cannot see why the Greek Government should not do so. Thanks to our treaty with Greece, it will not affect us if they do, as we have national treatment in the Greek coasting trade.

It is true that when ceding the Ionian islands to Greece in 1864, we stipulated that the trade between Greece and the islands should not be closed to foreign shipping. But the present case is hardly on all fours. When voluntarily abandoning our protectorate over the Ionian islands, His Majesty Government were justified in attaching any conditions they thought necessary. Their position in the present instance is quite different. The Library, for instance, cannot find that the Powers insisted on the shipping between Greece and Thessaly being kept open on the cession of that province by Turkey.

As regards the Bulgarian coasting trade, I should not think it can be of much importance to us, but that is for the Board of Trade to decide. We could presumably claim it under the Capitulations which are still in force in Bulgaria, although suspended in certain respects by our present commercial treaty.

Paragraphs 23 and 28 dealing with No. 2 call for no special comment.

As regards No. 3, dealt with in paragraph 23, no objection can be taken to it, though I see no reason why it should be imposed particularly on Greece and Bulgaria. I could understand it far better if it were imposed on Turkey, who last year insisted on collecting light dues from foreign vessels, although she had extinguished all her lighthouses.

As regards No. 4, we have already had the views of the Admiralty.* The strike, or rather demonstration, of lightermen at Constantinople to which allusion is made, occurred in 1901. As a result the Quays Company entered into an agreement that no lighters but those of the Lightermen's Corporation should be employed by vessels using the quays, and the foreign steamship companies which possessed lighters of their own received notice that they must no longer employ them. Recently attempts have been made to get the Porte to abolish this monopoly of the lightermen owing to the inefficient service they maintain.

Its abolition has, in fact, been made one of the conditions subject to which the Powers are prepared to agree to the "temettu" tax which the Porte wish to impose on foreign firms. But throughout the negotiations the Powers have never claimed to use their own lighters as a right, but merely as a concession in the interests of trade. To extort this privilege now from the Balkan States as a perpetual right without any corresponding *quid pro quo* would certainly infringe their sovereign rights.

We have no information as to whether foreign ships are allowed to use their own lighters, &c., in Salonica and the other ports which are to be ceded to Greece and Bulgaria. It might be worth while finding out what the custom is in these ports. If foreign lighters are used, the Board of Trade might be asked what value they attach to the maintenance of the privilege.

As regards No. 5 (see paragraphs 23–27), the Austrians can argue that as the Powers already enjoy this right under the most-favoured nation clause of the Capitulations† (in virtue of an old Austro-Turkish treaty which specifically grants it) they should take steps to preserve it in the ceded territories. (The right would in practice be valueless in the original territory of Greece and Bulgaria, where there are no navigable rivers, &c.) There is something to be said for this argument. In practice, however, Austria and Italy would, I should think, be the only Powers who would benefit by the right. The Board of Trade may, however, think it sufficiently valuable to make it worth our while to retain it if possible.

The "observations made by the Foreign Office," mentioned in paragraph 30, refer to our proviso that the Austrian proposals were presumably not meant to apply to Turkish territory.‡

July 29, 1913.

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* See their letter of February 27, 1913 [9490], attached.

† The rights enjoyed by Austria under her old Capitulations as regards rivers and channels (not lakes) obviously related to passage by the Danube and its mouths and the various straits and sea channels.

‡ See note to Austro-Hungarian Ambassador of April 14, 1913, already sent to Board of Trade.

Enclosure 2 in No. 258.

Memorandum respecting British Rights as regards Navigation, Shipping, and Coasting Trade in the Ottoman Empire.

General Navigation.

BRITISH vessels enjoy the rights of navigation in the waters and harbours of the Ottoman Empire in virtue of the Capitulations of 1675.

Great Britain.

Article 1 enacts that—

"The English nation and merchants, and all other merchants sailing under the English flag with their ships and vessels and merchandise of all descriptions, shall and may pass safely by sea and go and come into our dominions without any the least prejudice or molestation being given to their persons, property, or effects by any person whatsoever, but that they shall be left in the undisturbed enjoyment of their privileges, and be at liberty to attend to their affairs."

Article 3 says that—

"English ships and vessels entering the ports and harbours of our dominions shall and may at all times safely and securely abide and remain therein, and at their free will and pleasure depart therefrom without any opposition or hindrance from anyone."

Article 17 says that—

"Our ships and galleys, and all other vessels which may fall in with any English ships in the seas of our dominions, shall not give them any molestation, nor detain them by demanding anything, but shall show good and mutual friendship the one to the other without occasioning them any prejudice."

Article 18 confers most-favoured-nation treatment, so that British vessels may claim any privileges granted to foreign vessels in Turkish waters or harbours.

Article 40 says that—

"On their ships arriving at any port and landing their goods and merchandises, they shall and may, after having paid their duties, safely and securely depart, without experiencing any molestation or obstruction from anyone."

British vessels may also claim the following privileges accorded to foreign countries in virtue of the most-favoured-nation article in the British Capitulations of 1675 :—

Austria-Hungary.

Article 1 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Turkey and Austria, signed at Passarowitz on the 27th July, 1718, lays down that—

"Des rapports commerciaux s'étant établis entre les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale autrichienne et ceux de la Sublime Porte ottomane par mer, par terre et par fleuve, ces rapports ne devront rencontrer aucun obstacle. . . . . Tous bâtiments couverts du pavillon de Sa Majesté et munis de patentes Impériales pourront fréquenter les échelles de l'Empire ottoman et y débarquer les effets de leurs cargaisons."

Article 7 says :—

"Les bâtiments marchands Impériaux qui aborderont à quelque échelle du Levant et qui y mouilleront, ne pourront point être inquiétés pour le terme du séjour qu'ils y feront. Lorsqu'ils ne débarqueront point de leur propre gré les marchandises qu'ils ont à bord, ils ne pourront point y être forcés."

Article 4 of the "sened," of the 24th February, 1784, says :—

"Pour prévenir tout doute et soupçon qui pourrait naître aux commandants, magistrats et employés des provinces ottomanes sur le commerce par mer et par les rivières, la Sublime Porte déclare qu'en vertu des traités il est permis aux sujets et marchands Impériaux munis de leurs passeports d'aller et venir librement par mer et par rivières et exercer le commerce dans tous les États et provinces de l'Empire ottoman,

et qu'ils pervertissent, dans leurs voyages par terre, par mer ou sur les rivières, où ils le trouveront convenable, arborer, décharger leurs marchandises, et charger de celles qui ne sont pas défendues, en payant les droits qu'ils doivent acquitter."

Article 6 says:—

"Les sujets et marchands Impériaux pourront librement et sans aucune exception mentionnée dans le dit Traité de Commerce de Passarowitz puisse être d'aucun empêchement, passer, pour cause de commerce, des rivières à la mer et *vice versâ*, avec navires, pavillons et équipages autrichiens, et ne seront obligés à autre chose qu'à payer, comme dit est, une fois les droits dus pour douane pour les effets qu'ils importeront ou exporteront."

Article 7 says:—

"Le transit par les côtes et par terre de la domination ottomane, et nommément par le canal de la mer Noire, des sujets et marchands Impériaux venant par mer ou par rivières sous pavillon Impérial des provinces autrichiennes pour passer à des Cours étrangères, ou venant des Cours étrangères pour se rendre aux provinces autrichiennes sera libre et exempt de tout droit quelconque."

Belgium.

Article 2 of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between Belgium and Turkey, signed at Balta Liman on the 3rd August, 1838, lays down that

"Les sujets des hautes parties contractantes pourront en toute sécurité visiter leurs possessions respectives, faire leur commerce par terre et par mer."

Article 3 says:—

"Les négociants ou autres sujets belges qui se rendront dans les mers, les eaux, les ports et tous les pays de la Sublime Porte, ne pourront y être vexés ou molestés, et paieront les mêmes droits et autres impôts que ceux qui sont imposés aux négociants et sujets des Puissances amies les plus favorisées."

Article 9 says:—

"Les vaisseaux belges navigueront en toute sûreté sous leur pavillon."

Article 10 says:—

"Les navires marchands belges pourront librement passer par le canal de la Résidence Impériale, pour aller dans la mer Noire ou en revenir. Il sera libre aux vaisseaux marchands belges de naviguer chargés ou sur lest, soit dans le Bosphore, soit dans la mer Noire, ou les autres mers, eaux, ports ou havres qui dépendent de la Sublime Porte, laquelle les fera protéger contre toute molestation ou attaque des Régences d'Afrique, et leur donnera des firmans nécessaires à cet effet."

Article 11 says:—

"Dans tous les ports de l'Empire ottoman, les navires belges, soit à leur entrée, soit à leur sortie, ne seront pas assujettis, par les officiers de la douane ou de la chancellerie du port, à être visités plus sévèrement que ceux des nations les plus favorisées; et ces navires et leurs cargaisons ne paieront jamais d'autres et de plus forts droits de douane, de port ou d'autres que ceux payés par ces mêmes nations.

"De même, ils pourront importer ou exporter tous les produits ou marchandises quelconques, qui pourront être importés ou exportés par les navires des nations les plus favorisées.

"Pour ce qui est du commerce côtier, consistant en produits indigènes ou étrangers, expédiés d'un port à l'autre de l'un des pays des hautes parties contractantes, il est convenu qu'il pourra se faire librement par les navires et des sujets des deux pays respectifs; toutefois, il sera assimilé aux règlements pour le commerce intérieur appliqués de part et d'autre aux sujets des Puissances amies les plus favorisées."

Article 12 says:—

"Les sujets de l'une des hautes parties contractantes, arrivant avec leurs bâtiments à l'une des côtes appartenant à l'autre, mais ne voulant pas entrer ou, après y être entrés, ne voulant décharger aucune partie de leur cargaison, auront la liberté de

partir et de poursuivre leur voyage, sans payer d'autres droits que n'en paient en pareil cas les autres nations amies."

Article 13 says:—

"Il est aussi convenu que les bâtiments marchands de l'une des hautes parties contractantes étant entrés dans les ports de l'autre, pourront se borner à ne décharger qu'une partie de leur cargaison, selon que le capitaine ou propriétaire le désirera, et qu'ils pourront s'en aller librement avec le reste, sans payer de droits, impôts ou charges quelconques, que pour la partie qui aura été mise à terre et qui sera marquée et biffée sur le manifeste, qui contiendra l'énumération des effets dont le bâtiment était chargé, lequel manifeste devra être présenté en entier à la douane du lieu où le bâtiment aura abordé. Il ne sera rien payé pour la partie de la cargaison que le bâtiment remportera, et avec laquelle il pourra continuer sa route pour un ou plusieurs ports du même pays, et y disposer du reste de sa cargaison si elle est composée d'objets dont l'importation est permise, en payant les droits qui y sont applicables; ou bien il pourra s'en aller dans tout autre pays.

"Il est cependant entendu que les droits, impôts ou charges quelconques qui sont ou seront payables pour les bâtiments mêmes, doivent être acquittés une seule fois, au premier port où ils rompraient le chargement, ou en déchargeraient une partie; mais qu'aucuns droits, impôts ou charges pareils ne seront demandés de nouveau, dans les ports du même pays, où lesdits bâtiments pourraient vouloir entrer après, à moins que la nation la plus favorisée ne soit sujette à quelques droits dans le même cas."

Denmark.

Article 1 of the Treaty of Friendship, Navigation, and Commerce between Denmark and Turkey signed at Constantinople on the 14th October, 1756, lays down

"Il y aura toujours et à perpétuité une amitié constante entre Sa Majesté le Roi de Danemark et Sa Majesté Impériale ottomane et l'Illustre Porte, de même qu'entre les sujets de l'un et de l'autre Empire, un libre commerce par mer et par terre, de sorte que les Danois et tous ceux qui sur des vaisseaux véritablement danois, portant le pavillon et étant munis de passeports de Sa Majesté danoise, arriveront dans quelque port, ville commerçante ou province de l'Empire turc, y puissent entrer librement en tous temps avec leurs effets et marchandises et il ne seront molestés en aucune manière, ni en arrivant, ni en demeurant, ni en s'en allant.

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"A l'embouchure des Dardanelles et aux ports on observera à l'égard des vaisseaux danois les mêmes coutumes qui sont en usage par rapport aux autres nations amies, de manière qu'après le payement du droit ordinaire, appelé 'selamet aktchessi,' de 300 aspres, on ne les molestera point par quelque impôt nouvellement inventé."

Article 4 says:—

"Si quelqu'un ne trouve pas à propos de décharger son vaisseau lorsqu'il arrive, il ne pourra pas y être obligé, on ne l'empêchera pas de transporter la charge du vaisseau dans l'endroit où il le pourrait trouver à propos et l'on n'exigera non plus rien de lui sous quelque prétexte que ce puisse être."

France.

Article 20 of the French Capitulations of the 28th May, 1740, says:—

"Nous voulons que les Français, marchands, drogmans et autres, pourvu qu'ils soient dans les bornes de leur État, aillent et viennent librement par mer et par terre, pour vendre, acheter et commercer dans nos États, et qu'après avoir payé les droits d'usage et de consulat, selon qu'il s'est toujours pratiqué, ils ne puissent être inquiétés ni molestés, en allant et venant, par nos amiraux, capitaines, de nos bâtiments et autres, non plus que par nos troupes."

Article 30 says:—

"Nous voulons que les navires et autres bâtiments français, qui viendront dans nos États, y soient bien gardés et soutenus, et qu'ils puissent s'en retourner en toute sûreté."

Article 59 says:—

"Si les marchands français veulent porter, en temps de paix, des marchandises non prohibées des États de mon Empire, par terrre ou par mer, de même que par les

rivières du Danube et du Tanaïs, dans les États de Moscovie, Russie et autres pays, et apporter dans mes États; dès qu'ils auront payé la douane et les autres droits quels qu'ils soient, comme le payent les autres nations franques, lorsqu'ils feront ce commerce, il ne leur sera fait sans raison aucune opposition."

Article 73 says :—

"Les bâtiments français qui, selon l'usage, aborderont dans les ports de mon Empire, seront traités amicalement."

Article 74 says :—

"Dans toutes les échelles, ports et côtes de mon Empire, lorsque les capitaines, ou patrons des bâtiments français auront besoin de faire calfater, donner le suif et radouber leur bâtiments, les commandants n'empêcheront point qu'il leur soit fourni, pour leur argent, la quantité de suif, goudron, poix et ouvriers qui leur seront nécessaires."

Article 79 says —

"Les bâtiments français ne pourront être détenus sans raison dans nos ports, et on ne leur prendra par force ni leur chaloupe, ni leurs matelots, et la détention surtout des bâtiments chargés de marchandises occasionnant un préjudice considérable, il ne sera plus permis à l'avenir de rien commettre de semblable."

Germany

Article 1 of the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between Prussia and Turkey, signed at Constantinople on the 22nd March, 1761, says :—

"Il sera permis aux sujets et habitants des deux côtes de trafiquer librement tant par mer que par terre, et les sujets prussiens, et les mariniers de leurs vaisseaux entrant dans les ports et dans les échelles et îles des provinces ottomanes avec leurs cargaisons et marchandises, ne seront pas molestés lors de leur arrivée, de leur séjour et de leur retour, et si par quelque accident leurs vaisseaux souffraient quelque endommagement, il leur sera permis de les faire rabouber.

* * * * * *

"Les navires prussiens qui aborderont les forteresses des Dardanelles ou autres ports et échelles seront reçus de la même manière qui se pratique envers les vaisseaux des autres Puissances amies."

Italy

Article 1 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Sardinia and Turkey signed at Constantinople on the 25th October, 1823, says :—

"Merchant-vessels of His above-named Majesty [the King of Sardinia] may resort to the dominions of the Ottoman Empire, sojourn in those countries, and carry on their commerce with the greatest safety in them, where they shall meet with protection and assistance."

Netherlands.

Article 4 of the Dutch Capitulations of the 15th September, 1680, says :—

"Si, la mer ne les favorisant pas [les Néerlandais], il leur était impossible d'aller à leur pays ou de venir ici, ils pourront mouiller dans les ports et échelles de notre Empire, et y faire tranquillement leur commerce, sans que personne ait à s'y opposer."

Article 19 says :—

"Personne ne molestera ceux qui viendront par mer, ni leurs vaisseaux et autres navires, ni leurs effets, hardes et marchandises qu'ils auraient à bord."

Article 24 says :—

"Ils [les Néerlandais] pourront en toute sûreté aller et venir dans nos États; et s'il arrivait qu'une tempête les fît souffrir sur mer, les vaisseaux de l'État et autres leur prêteront assistance."

Article 26 says :—

"Les négociants et les drogmans néerlandais et autres individus de cette nation pourront venir par terre et par mer dans nos États et y faire le commerce, et après qu'ils auront acquitté les droits ordinaires suivant l'usage et les règlements, ils ne seront inquiétés ni par les capitaines et les commandants qui courent la mer, ni par d'autres."

Article 47 says :—

"Si à Damiette, à Alexandrie et autres échelles, des musulmans voulaient, de leur plein gré, charger leurs effets et marchandises à bord des vaisseaux et bâtiments néerlandais, pour les faire transporter à Constantinople, ou à tout autre endroit de nos États, personne ne s'y opposera."

Article 53 says —

"Les vaisseaux ou bâtiments qui viendront dans les ports de notre Empire y seront protégés, et pourront s'en retourner en toute sûreté."

Russia.

Article 1 of the Convention of Commerce and Navigation between Russia and Turkey signed at Constantinople on the 10th (21st) June, 1783, says :—

"La Sublime Porte permet entièrement à tous les sujets russes en général de naviguer librement et de trafiquer dans tous ses États tant par terre que sur les mers et eaux, ainsi que sur le Danube, et partout où la navigation et le commerce pourront convenir aux sujets russes."

Article 2 says

"Les deux parties sont convenues que leurs sujets puissent entrer en tous temps dans leurs ports, lieux et villes avec leurs vaisseaux, barques, chariots et autres voitures propres au transport."

Article 6 says —

"Les marchands, les drogmans et tous les sujets russes, en général, peuvent librement aller et venir tant par terre que par mer dans les États de l'Empire ottoman pour y faire le commerce."

Article 12 says :—

"La Sublime Porte s'engage à admettre et à protéger les vaisseaux et bâtiments qui, sous pavillon russe, viendront dans l'Empire ottoman et à les en laisser repartir en toute sûreté."

Article 18 says :—

"Les bâtiments sous pavillon russe qui arriveront dans les échelles de l'Empire ottoman y seront reçus amicalement."

Article 37 says :—

"Personne ne s'opposera à ce que les sujets de la Sublime Porte chargent des marchandises sur des bâtiments russes pour les transporter d'un port à l'autre de l'Empire ottoman, en convenant du nolis avec le propriétaire ou le capitaine du bâtiment."

Spain.

Article 1 of the Treaty of Peace and Commerce between Spain and Turkey signed at Constantinople on the 14th September, 1782, says :—

"Entre les domaines actuels ou à posséder à l'avenir par les deux États, ainsi qu'entre leurs sujets respectifs, tant par terre que par mer, cette paix sera observée, le commerce réciproque sera permis de la même manière et avec une égale liberté concédée aux autres Puissances qui achètent et vendent leurs marchandises, réparent leurs navires des dommages essuyés par tempête ou autre accident, et achètent le nécessaire pour leur réparation."

Article 2 says —

"Des navires et sujets de Sa Majesté Catholique paieront 3 pour cent dans les ports et douanes l'Empire ottoman pour les effets ou denrées qu'ils y débarqueraient, ainsi que tout autre droit payé par les Puissances amies."

Article 15 says :—

"Les bâtiments espagnols passant aux échelles, aux ports, aux Dardanelles, &c., de l'Empire ottoman, ne seront assujettis à d'autres registres et visites que ceux ou celles qui ont lieu à l'égard des navires des Puissances amies."

Sweden.

Article 1 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Sweden and Turkey signed at Constantinople on the 10th January, 1737, says :—

"Les marchands suédois venant avec leurs navires sur le territoire de l'Empire ottoman, sous la protection et le pavillon du Roi de Suède . . . pourront en tout temps naviguer dans les mers de l'Empire, entrer librement dans ses ports, et y demeurer sans être molestés d'aucune façon . . . . Pour entrer dans les Dardanelles et dans les ports, ils se conformeront aux formalités usitées à l'égard des autres nations amies, et l'on ne pourra exiger d'eux de l'argent sous prétexte de visite des navires. Ils pourront de même circuler dans les limites du territoire de l'Empire, sans qu'on puisse les molester en aucune façon."

Article 12 says :—

"Si des marchands suédois débarquent une partie de leurs marchandises dans un port, et veulent transporter le reste ailleurs, ils ne payeront de droits que pour les marchandises débarquées."

United States.

Article 2 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United States and Turkey signed at Constantinople on the 7th May, 1830, says :—

"American merchants who shall come to the well-defended countries and ports of the Sublime Porte shall pay the same duties and other imports that are paid by merchants of the most-favoured friendly Powers, and they shall not, in any way, be vexed or molested."

Article 5 says :—

"American merchant-vessels that trade to the dominions of the Sublime Porte may go and come in perfect safety with their own flag."

Article 7 says :—

"Merchant vessels of the United States, in like manner as vessels of the most-favoured nations, shall have liberty to pass the canal of the Imperial Residence, and go and come in the Black Sea, either laden or in ballast, and they may be laden with the produce, manufactures, and effects of the Ottoman Empire, excepting such as are prohibited, as well as of their own country."

The above are the privileges enjoyed by British vessels in the Ottoman Empire under the Capitulations of 1675, and which they can claim under the Capitulations granted to foreign Powers and the treaties of such Powers with the Porte, in virtue of the most-favoured-nation treatment article in the English Capitulations.

Navigation of Inland Waters.

With regard to the navigation of the inland waters of the Ottoman Empire by British vessels, no such right is directly conferred by the Capitulations of 1675 or by any other treaty with Turkey.

The right, however, to navigate these waters may be claimed for British vessels by appealing, through article 18 of the Capitulations (which confers most-favoured-nation treatment), to the following privileges granted by the Sublime Porte to certain foreign countries.

Article 1 of the Treaty with Austria of 1718 says :—

"Des rapports commerciaux s'étant établis entre les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale autrichienne et ceux de la Sublime Porte par mer, par terre et par fleuve, ces rapports ne devront rencontrer aucun obstacle."

Article 4 of the "sened" of 1784, which confirmed the treaty of 1718, says :—

"La Sublime Porte déclare qu'en vertu des traités il est permis aux sujets et marchands Impériaux munis de leurs passeports, d'aller et venir librement par mer et par rivières."

Article 6 says :—

"Les sujets et marchands Impériaux pourront librement et sans que l'exception insérée dans ledit Traité de Commerce de Passarowitz (1718) puisse être d'aucun

empêchement, passer, pour cause de commerce, des rivières à la mer et *vice versâ*, avec navires, pavillons et équipages autrichiens, et ne seront obligés à autre chose qu'à payer comme dit est, une fois les droits dus pour douane pour tous les effets qu'ils importeront ou exporteront."

And article 7 says :—

"Le transit par les côtes, canaux, détroits de la domination ottomane, et nommément par le canal de la mer Noire, des sujets et marchands Impériaux venant par mer ou par rivières sous pavillon Impérial des provinces autrichiennes pour passer à des Cours étrangères pour se rendre aux provinces autrichiennes, sera libre et exempt de tout droit quelconque.

In referring to these treaties, Mr G. Young, in his "Corps de Droit ottoman," says :—

"En présence d'un texte aussi clairement rédigé, la Sublime Porte a renoncé à toute opposition active aux réclamations étrangères" (vol. iii, p. 65).

Article 59 of the French Capitulations of 1740 says :—

"Si les marchands français veulent porter en temps de paix des marchandises non prohibées des États de mon Empire par terre ou par mer de même que par les rivières du Danube et du Tanaïs dans les États de Moscovie, Russie et autres pays, et en apporter dans mes États dès qu'ils auront payé la douane et les autres droits quels qu'ils soient, comme le payent les autres nations franques, lorsqu'ils feront ce commerce, il ne leur sera fait sans raison aucune opposition."

Article 1 of the Convention of Commerce and Navigation between Russia and Turkey of 1783 says :—

"La Sublime Porte permet entièrement à tous les sujets russes en général de naviguer librement et de trafiquer dans tous ses États, tant par terre que sur les mers et eaux, ainsi que sur le Danube et partout où la navigation et le commerce pourront convenir aux sujets russes."

Coasting Trade.

There is no article in the English Capitulations of 1675, or in any other treaty between this country and Turkey, which directly confers on British vessels the right to participate in the coasting trade of Turkey.

In virtue of the most-favoured-nation article 18 of the Capitulations of 1675, British vessels can claim this right, which is conferred on Belgian vessels by article 11 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Belgium and Turkey of 1838 in the following terms :—

"Pour ce qui est du commerce côtier, consistant en produits indigènes ou étrangers expédiés d'un port à l'autre de l'un des pays des hautes parties contractantes, il est convenu qu'il pourra se faire librement par les navires et sujets des deux pays respectifs, toutefois, il sera assimilé aux règlements pour le commerce intérieur, appliqués, de part et d'autre, aux sujets des Puissances amies les plus favorisées."

GASTON DE BERNHARDT

Foreign Office, July 22, 1913.

[35278] No. 259.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Taylor, Yielding and Co.

Foreign Office, August 13, 1913.

Gentlemen,

IN reply to your letter of the 27th June, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to inform you that the local tariff continues to be in force in Crete as regards imports from abroad, and that preferential treatment is only accorded to Greek goods entering the island.

I am to inform you that His Majesty's Government have suggested to the Governments of the other Great Powers that a protest should be made against the

action of the Hellenic Government in this matter, and have instructed His Majesty's Minister at Athens to take action accordingly if his colleagues agree to do the same.

I am, &c.
W. LANGLEY.

[37516] No. 260.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 183.)
Sir, *Athens, August 8, 1913.*

WITH reference to your despatches No. 81 of the 17th, No. 82 of the 16th, and No. 83 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that on the 31st July I spoke to M. Coromilas, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, respecting the protection of British interests in the tobacco trade of Thrace and Macedonia, giving him a note of the places with which Messrs. Teofani and Co., the Oriental Tobacco Trading Company, and the British American Tobacco Company were respectively concerned.

Since writing the above, I have received from His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica to whom I had referred your despatch No. 76 of the 14th ultimo, a reply, copies of which are enclosed, to the effect that it is the Bulgarians, not the Greeks, who are responsible for the damage complained of by the British-American Tobacco Company.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 260.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir F. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, August 6, 1913.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive the despatch which you addressed to Acting Consul-General Morgan on the 31st ultimo, transmitting one from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in which were enclosed copies of two letters from the Director of the British-American Tobacco Company (Limited), complaining of the damage done to the interests of that company through the action of the Bulgarian authorities and troops in the occupied districts.

I believe that the statements contained in Mr. Hood's letters are entirely correct, but, though he speaks of "that portion of Turkey which is occupied by the Bulgarian and Greek troops," there is nothing in his complaints which can be regarded as reflecting on the Hellenic authorities. The Bulgarians, I fancy, must bear the entire responsibility for the losses to which Mr. Hood refers.

So far, however, as regards the first and third points raised in his complaints, the situation has been considerably modified since the date at which he wrote by the occupation of the whole extent of country between Cavalla and Nevrocop by the Greek army. The Greeks have shown themselves throughout infinitely more politic and conciliatory in their treatment of the interests of neutrals than either the Serbs or the Bulgarians, and I have little doubt that the tobacco companies will now find it possible to transport to and ship from Cavalla any portion of their stocks in the interior which may have escaped destruction or pillage at the hands of the Bulgarians. I will, however, lose no time in bringing the matter to the notice of the authorities here.

The case is different as regards the tobacco confiscated at Avlhkoui and elsewhere by the Bulgarians. This I understand to be totally lost, and nothing remains for the owners but to claim compensation from the Bulgarian Government.

The enclosures in your despatch under reply are returned herewith as desired.

I have, &c.
HARRY H. LAMB.

[37517] No. 261

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 184.)
Sir, *Athens, August 9, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 147 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a report by Captain Boyle, naval attaché to His Majesty's Legation, on the operations of the Greek 8th Division on the littoral of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, and on the traces of the Bulgarian occupation of those districts. Captain Boyle expresses the opinion that while, during the latter part of the Bulgarian occupation, the Greeks have been subjected to the most arbitrary, extortionate, and cruel treatment, the Turks have had to suffer this during the whole time, and, in addition, have undergone the most cruel religious persecution, worthy of the middle ages. He has the gravest misgivings as to their fate should the Bulgarians return, and recommends an impartial enquiry into the conditions under which the Turkish population of Thrace have lived during the last ten months before any final decision is come to as to the fate of the province.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 261.

Captain Boyle to Sir F. Elliot.

Sir, *Athens, August 5, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on my observations when following the 8th Division of the Greek army during their occupation of the littoral of the eastern part of Macedonia and the province of Thrace.—

This force, which is under the command of Colonel Mathiopoulo, was assembled at Kavala between the 19th and 23rd July, and consists of three regiments of Cretan infantry (the fourth battalion of this division is attached to the 7th Division), half a battalion of seamen, three 4-gun batteries of field artillery, a mountain battery, a squadron of cavalry, and details.

The troops left Kavala at 6 A.M. on the 24th July, and followed the sea road to the eastward, passing through a well wooded and watered plain.

At 11.30 A.M., after a halt for dinner, a move was made for Sharisham. This place the cavalry reported to be clear of the enemy, and the General (whom I followed) rode on ahead of the main body and entered the town with the advanced troops. On entry the town was found to be absolutely deserted, every house being shut up. A few Turks shortly afterwards appeared, and with them some Greeks, whom the Turks had been hiding in their villages. Other inhabitants had followed the troops from Kavala and entered with them. Upon inspection of the town it was found that some eight or ten houses had been burnt, all the stores had been broken into, all foodstuffs destroyed, wine and oil run off, and a search had evidently been made for money and valuables, as all mattresses had been ripped open and holes made in the walls. Every house appeared to have been ransacked, but I noticed that goods of no use in a military sense had in some cases been left undisturbed. In fact, the wanton damage was little more than might have been expected under the circumstances. The Bulgarians had finally quitted the place at 5 A.M., and had taken with them some fifteen or twenty Greeks, including the priest, as hostages.

Several stories were circulated as to murders having been committed, but in no case was I able to get anyone to show me the corpses, although many promised to do so, and as the only foreigner with the force they were evidently anxious to impress me against the Bulgarians. A staff officer told me of the discovery of the bodies of some women and children, but although he volunteered to take me to see the remains he did not do so, although reminded of his promise.

Evidently the worst had been expected of the Bulgarians, and the inhabitants were in a pitiable state of terror.

During the afternoon Bulgarians were seen on the hills and the force prepared for action, but nothing occurred, and finally the troops bivouacked where they were, the

General kindly inviting me to share his tent He seemed old for his work, and confessed himself as tired both in mind and body -a state the events of the day hardly seemed to justify

The following morning, the 25th July, it was proposed to cross the River Nestos into Thrace, and it was expected that the crossing would be resisted.

Not being well enough mounted to accompany the cavalry I was glad to accept an invitation from the officers of the mounta n battery so attach myself to them while with the force

This battery, with a battalion of Cretans and the cavalry, were sent ahead of the remainder to attempt a ford situated some 2 miles below the bridge.

On arrival at this ford no resistance was offered and the troops waded across, the river here being about 400 yards in width but at no place more than knee deep.

Some enthusiasm was manifested by the troops on entering Thrace. The staff officer accompanying the force now told me that they would push on for Xanthi, and striking the road which crosses the bridge the march was made under good conditions, the going being excellent and suitable for heavy traffic. I observed that the country was by no means so denuded as I had been led to expect, there were cattle and sheep about on the plain.

Of the inhabitants a few Turks only were visible, all the Greek houses were shut up and deserted; no work was going on in the fields. These Turks were responsible for spreading a story that Xanthi was in flames, and that many people had been murdered there. The officers promised me that I would now see of what the Bulgars were capable, and one pointed out the smoke hanging over the town, and in a sense there was disappointment when authentic news was received that nothing of the sort had taken place. As the column approached the town the Greek population, accompanied by many Turks, came out to meet it, showing every manifestation of joy and relief at the sight of the soldiers, and the force received an enthusiastic welcome as it made a triumphal entry through the main street, and marched to a camping ground on the hill slopes above the town.

The Bulgar had left the place dur. g the previous night, tak ng thirty leading Greeks with them as hostages. No damage had been done to the town, beyond the burning of the gaol, in which had been kept the arms and ammunition confiscated from the inhabitants.

This has been alleged to have been a deliberate attempt to burn the town as well as the thirty prisoners that were liberated a few minutes before the fire broke out. The destruction of these arms, however, would be an obvious military precaution, and is a sufficient reason for the destruction of this particular building. When the troops occupated the town, charge of the place was taken by Mr. F. Stem, an American, and Mr F Speir a British subject, both of the Export Tobacco Company, and so well had these gentlemen done their work, by organising a police force, &c., that no looting of any sort had taken place, nor had the few Bulgarians who remained in the place been molested.

During the evening a detachment of the naval brigade arrived to act as police, and a naval lieutenant was appointed as commandant of the place. Learning that no forward move was to be made on the forenoon of the 26th July, I took the opportunity to make some enquiries as to the behaviour of the Bulgarians during the latter part of their occupation, and was first taken to see a Greek employé of the tobacco firm, who was in bed in his house.

This man showed me his body and limbs, which were covered with a mass of irregular bruises, caused, it was stated, by the butt end of rifles and the heels of military boots, indeed, the shape of the latter could be detected in some cases. His head was cut open and his face disfigured.

I then proceeded to the house of a M. Zeroudaki, who is agent of the American Tobacco Company. This gentleman had had a narrow escape of being taken as a hostage, and his brother at the time of my visit was in the hands of the Bulgarians While at this house three Turkish hodjahs or priests came to see me, explaining that, hearing there was a British officer with the force, they wished to ask him to intercede with the Greek officers on their behalf, and to beg them to send troops to look after their villages These men described the persecution the Turks had suffered, the stories being similar to those given later, and stated they had been in hiding for several months to avoid forcible conversion, and their emaciated appearance bore out their story.

By this time quite a crowd of Greeks had collected, including the widow and father of a man who had died in prison on the 17th July as the result of two floggings.

There was also a man and wife, both of whom had been beaten, while the former

had the skin of his neck broken by a bayonet placed there to frighten him. The bruises on these people were very large, and could only have been caused by very severe treatment. One of the victims must have been 60 years of age. With some difficulty I escaped from a crowd all anxious to show me their hurts, and procuring a conveyance drove out to view three bodies said to have been found 4 miles out of the town, but on arrival at the place nothing was known of them.

The pretext for all this ill-treatment was that the victims were secreting arms, and the only way of escape was to bribe the gaolers. Without wishing to excuse the methods, there was justification for believing that arms were hidden in the town, for four days later, when the Greeks ordered all arms to be given in, I saw about sixty serviceable rifles that had been collected.

Xanthi is a flourishing and well-situated town, and one of the principal centres of the tobacco industry The inhabitants are said to number 20,000. Turks seem to predominate, although this does not accord with the Greek version. A certain number of Bulgarians work in the tobacco warehouses.

The main body of the troops arrived at the town on the afternoon of the 26th, receiving an enthusiastic welcome from the whole Greek population and a large number of Turks, the general being received as a deliverer

As these troops marched into the head of the column left the town, following a road winding up between two hills on a north-easterly direction. The road metalled light way only just completed before the war and [illegible] a few rules out, the ridges over the ravines are only half rolled but this would form decidedly unlikely to prove any the heaviest traffic for 10 miles out of the town At 5 P.M. the troops bivouacked by the side of the road.

On the 27th July the troops remained in camp until 10 A.M., when news was received that some komitajis had been located on a neighbouring height. The troops moved out, but as the senior officer had instructions not to go beyond a certain distance from Xanthi, he sent a mounted messenger in to ask for permission to attack. It being obvious little would be done, I took the opportunity to ride to some Turkish villages near by accompanied by a Greek doctor who speaks both Turkish and English. The state of these people was miserable; they were in a state of great terror, and had apparently undergone great persecution. All had been forcibly christened; men and women forced to discard the national headdress and to wear Bulgar caps and scarves. The minarets of the mosques had been destroyed, and the mosques themselves converted into churches. At the services every inhabitant had been forced to attend on pain of a flogging.

It was stated that girls had been carried off and men were missing. An old Turk exhibited his women, and stated before them and other Turks that they had all been violated by Bulgars, which the women, in tears, admitted to be true. The hodjah of the village pointed me out some girls, apparently about 14 years old, pregnant as a result of these assaults, and this man, who had resisted being christened, had several scars on his body, the result of bayonet pricks.

The emotion of these people when told that they might practise their religion and have back the mosques was quite pathetic. Two days later, on revisiting one mosque, it was seen that no time had been lost in effacing all marks of infidel occupation. Some of the women produced little tickets they had been given to aid them in remembering their Christian names, two of which are attached * On rejoining the troops, it was found that they had returned to camp.

Monday, July 28.—Two companies of Evzones having been sent out as a reinforcement a move forward was made at 8 A.M., but, as might be expected, nothing was seen of the enemy The road followed was still excellent [illegible] and my companion, an artillery officer, thought that field artillery would find the turns very difficult to negotiate. At 1·30 P.M. the force again went into camp, apparently because of a heavy rainstorm. During the afternoon I visited the Turkish village of Emalu, some 3 miles beyond where the troops had halted, but being alone could not converse with the people, but from their signs, the state of the mosque, and the destroyed Bulgarian clothing lying about, gathered that much the same conditions had prevailed as already described

On returning to camp and finding that it was not proposed to continue the march the next day, I determined to return to Xanthi and started the next morning, Tuesday, the 29th July, at 7 A.M., taking the opportunity to visit the village of Chain, where I had the services of two Greek soldiers as interpreters.

* Not reproduced.

Here similar stories were told, with the addition that it was stated the women of the village had been paraded naked in the street. I was at first inclined to think this meant with uncovered faces, but my interpreter insisted it meant in the nude. An old Turk presented me with his certificate of baptism which is attached.* The others were torn up.

These people had not ventured to interfere with their mosque, and asked my permission to do so, but I could only refer them to the Greek officers. It was here stated that eight men were missing in the last few days, and when about 4 miles away on the return road my attention was called by some Turks to the body of one of their countrymen they had just found in a small gully near the road.

The poor fellow had his throat cut and two bayonet wounds in the shoulders, and appeared to have been dead three or four days. As he was wearing Turkish clothes, it may be he had been a little premature in renouncing Christianity.

On arrival at Xanthi I called on the General, who told me of the occupation of Gumuldjina and Dedeagatch, and that he did not anticipate any further move for the present.

With his approval I decided to visit the places named, and left the following morning, the 30th July, at 7 A.M., following the road to Port Lagos in order to see that place. The road is fairly good, and can be used by field artillery and light motor vehicles, but in wet weather would become difficult in places. Port Lagos was reached at 11 A.M., it consists of a row of tumble-down shanties, and there are no facilities for working cargo, although the tobacco from both Xanthi and Gumuldjina is sent here for shipping. Only native boats can get alongside the mud in front of the town. A naval lieutenant with a small party of seamen occupied the village and a destroyer lay in the roads in order to keep up communication between fleet and army, the heliograph and lamp being used between Xanthi and Port Lagos. The torpedo-boat destroyer lay well to the east of the usual anchorage owing to it being supposed there were mines in the harbour which had not been located.

A very good road joins Gumuldjina with Lagos, but the last 3 miles into the latter place are not completed, although the bridges over the creeks are finished. Large flocks and herds were about on the plains, and several country vehicles were met on the road.

Gumuldjina is said to have 30,000 inhabitants, of whom 6,000 are Greek, 20,000 Turkish, and the remainder mixed. This is a Greek estimate.

A large business is done in wine and tobacco. Except for one street and one square of Greek houses the place is almost entirely Turkish. The Bulgarians had done no damage on leaving the town except at the railway station, which they had wrecked, and had destroyed the Bulgarian rolling-stock, but that belonging to the J. S. C. Railway Company had been left intact.

To assist in this work several 5-inch common shell had been exploded, fragments of which were scattered about. These had probably formed part of the ammunition of four guns which had been mounted for the defence of Marcinia, but had been withdrawn when that place was evacuated.

The regular troops from Xanthi and Dedeagatch are said to have concentrated at Gumuldjina and to the number of 4,000, with eighteen guns of varying calibres, taken the road to Bulgaria, accompanied by many Bulgarian families, the colonists of Great Bulgaria. Forty hostages were taken from the town, but some of those from Xanthi were here liberated.

I was here told that the Greeks of Kavala, Xanthi, and Gumuldjina had offered the Greek Government a battleship if allowed three years in which to raise the 2,000,000*l.* required.

These tobacco towns are reputed to be very rich, and as my informant is a Greek of some standing, and stated he that morning had had the subscription list in his house there may be some such movement on foot and a ship of some type be eventually provided.

On the morning of the 31st July I left Gumuldjina for Dedeagatch, the road being a mere track, which leads through a fertile plain where live-stock of all sorts was observed. At the large Turkish village of Chapane, which lies at the foot of the Kelebek hills, I was able, with the assistance of one of the few Greeks, to talk with the people, who had just summoned up courage to take possession of the mosque.

They were in the act of stripping it, but doing so in a very quiet manner, and allowing the Greeks to take away the sacred emblems.

On leaving Chapane the road degenerates into a mere mountain track, hard at

* Not reproduced.

times to distinguish, but the direction can always be kept by the telegraph posts, which run in an east-south-east, west-north-westerly direction to Dedeagatch. This route is impossible for anything but mountain guns and mule transport.

The road passing a Bulgarian village I rode into it and found it quite deserted. It had been rifled by Turks, a party of whom left at one end as I entered the other, but otherwise no damage had been done.

On descending the hills to the eastward the track strikes the railway line and follows it to the station of Hirka Kuey, where a considerable number of railway trucks and carriages were standing apparently uninjured. On riding through the tunnels they proved to be intact.

I arrived at Dedeagatch at 9 P.M. the town being approached across a thickly wooded plain across which the lighthouse, relit for the first time that evening, is visible.

A naval officer was in charge of the town, a battalion of seamen in garrison, and the Greek fleet was lying in the roadstead. I was lodged in the house of the Greek Metropolitan.

Friday, the 1st August, the British consul came to see me, and while he was there the Turkish hodjah, and the leading Turk of the place also arrived. Through the consul these Turks told me how their women had been violated, their mosques taken from them, their houses destroyed, that they had been forced to wear the Bulgarian headdress, and that the Pomaks, or Turks of Bulgar origin, had been forcibly converted. They finished up by saying that if the Bulgarians came back the whole Turkish community intended to emigrate to Egypt, where they would get the protection of the British Government. The harbour had been mined, and the boats of the fleet were busy sweeping for them; six had been recovered by noon on the 1st, and it was thought an equal number had yet to be found.

Stories were current in the town that all the outlying Turkish villages had been burnt, and, as this did not agree with my observations, I expressed a wish to go and see, and the consul arranged for a conveyance at 6 A.M. the following morning.

During the afternoon the Metropolitan returned from Enos, where he had retired to avoid being arrested as a hostage.

This priest had incurred the special enmity of the Bulgarians, as on their arrival in November last they commenced to massacre the Turks, some 3,000 of whom fled to the compound of the Greek church, where this prelate had defied the Bulgars to touch them. For the first fortnight of July this priest, together with his mother, had been kept a prisoner in the dining-room of his own house.

This bishop stated through an interpreter that if the Bulgarians come back the Greeks intend to burn their property and leave for the islands, and he signified that he himself would set fire to the cathedral.

Dedeagatch is a grain shipping port, and also carried on a trade in tobacco and wine. The town was formerly very flourishing, but large numbers of the inhabitants have now deserted the place.

Laid out by the Russians in '76, the town has broad streets planted with trees. The buildings are mostly of the shanty type, except on the front, where some large store-houses and offices are situated.

A sea wall extends the length of the town, and at the western end is a small harbour formed by a curved pier giving a water area of some 6,000 square yards.

Eight grain tippers lead to this harbour from across the road, where there is a row of storehouses, but only native caiques can load under them.

The railway runs down to the front, so that goods can be brought to the water's edge. At the eastern end of the town there existed a long row of storehouses, which contained Bulgarian Government grain as well as private merchandise. These, together with a large stack of compressed hay stored near them, were burnt by the Bulgarians before quitting the place on the morning of the 24th July. This was stated to be an attempt to destroy the town, but, had this been the intention, it would have been far easier to do so by igniting the stores at the western end, for these adjoin the houses, whereas there is a large open space round those destroyed.

It seems more probable that here, as elsewhere, the town was spared, in view of a possible reoccupation.

At 6 A.M. on the 2nd August the consul called for me as arranged, but had been told that the mountains were not safe, so the villages reported burnt could not be visited. I was not surprised at the prohibition. Instead, I was taken to see the remains of two Turkish villages on the plain which had been totally destroyed earlier in the Bulgarian occupation; these, together with the burnt Turkish quarter of the town, are

a sad symbol of the benefits conferred on the Mussulmans by Christian rule. The village of Makri was then visited, where the inhabitants are mostly Greek, and was found to be in a miserable condition. The place seems to have been unfortunate in having had a particularly bad Governor. Some of the inhabitants having fled to the hills, two elderly Greeks were arrested, and, being unable or unwilling to give information, were put to death close to the town on the 18th July.

Wandering round the village was a most distressing experience, many of the people being destitute. The Greeks here also expressed their intention to burn the place and leave the country if the Bulgarians return.

The Turks had been subjected to the same religious persecution here as elsewhere.

On returning to Dedeagatch I found a steamer was leaving for Kavala and Salonica, and determined to avail myself of the opportunity, and accordingly left the harbour that evening.

Making full allowance for the fact that, except at Dedeagatch, my interpreters were always Greek, and confining myself to the places visited, I do not hesitate to express the opinion that while, during the latter part of the Bulgarian occupation, the Greeks have been subjected to the most arbitrary, extortionate, and cruel treatment, the Turks have had to suffer this during the whole time, and, in addition, have undergone the most cruel religious persecution worthy of the middle ages. The fate of these unfortunate people, should the Bulgarians return, is not pleasant to contemplate, for it must be remembered that wherever the Greeks have been they have given the people authority to retake the mosques, destroy the bells and crosses, and to tear up both their baptismal certificates and Bulgarian clothing.

I would respectfully submit the advisability of holding an impartial enquiry into the conditions under which the Turkish population of Thrace have lived during the last ten months before any final decision is come to as to the fate of this province.

One point which has been borne in upon me during my stay with the Greek troops is the contempt and hatred felt for the Italian nation by the military officers, and a deputy for Corfu, who was staying at Dedeagatch, was the loudest on the subject, and expressed the most absurd and extravagant views.

In conclusion, I would like to mention the kindness received from all ranks of the Greek army and the assistance given me by the British consul at Dedeagatch, which gentleman, according to Greeks, had a restraining influence on the excesses of the Bulgarian authorities in the town.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM H. D. BOYLE, *Naval Attaché.*

[37520] No. 262.

Sir C. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 216.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, August 9, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the terms of the treaty of peace signed at Bucharest have aroused much dissatisfaction and disappointment in this country, and in view of its conditions the Russian press anticipates little prospect of the peace being a lasting one.

The "Novoe Vremya" lays the blame for this in no unmeasured terms on France, and complains that she has failed in her duties as an ally, and abandoned her traditional friendship to Russia. Her attitude in the matter of Cavalla and the Ægean islands is ascribed to her fantastic ideas of a Greater Greece, and the creation thereby of a counterpoise to Italy in the Mediterranean. In adopting this attitude she is accused of sacrificing her treaty obligations to Russia, and the "Novoe Vremya" concludes by seeing in the recent action of France sufficient ground for a revision of the Russo-French Alliance.

The "Retch" adopts a similar point of view, and declares that Russia's ally has betrayed her for the sake of a visionary policy in the Mediterranean. While holding out little hope of a lasting peace, the "Retch" is very sceptical of the possibility of a revision of its terms by the Powers. It lays stress on the failure of the Powers to intervene successfully in the past, and is not optimistic as to the result of any future attempts to do so. If, however, a revision takes place, the question of Cavalla must at least be reconsidered, and the "Retch" attributes the surrender of Bulgaria in this matter to the hope held out to her of an eventual revision by the Powers.

The semi-official "Rossia" also expresses this opinion, and states that the knowledge of future intervention by the Powers alone induced Bulgaria to consent to the Greek demands. It describes the peace as a mere preliminary agreement, and welcomes it as putting a final end to bloodshed in the Balkans.

But apart from the dissatisfaction at France's open encouragement of Greece, it is generally felt here that without her financial assistance Turkey would never have been in a position to retake Adrianople. Germany's policy in this respect is recognised as identic with that of France, but it is against the latter as Russia's ally that public resentment is especially directed.

In summarising the results of the war, the "Novoe Vremya" observes that Bulgaria has now fallen under the political dominion of Roumania, who remains the dominant Power in the Balkans, and that Servia has become commercially dependant on Greece. As regards Macedonia, it is felt that the present division of that province between Servia and Greece cannot possibly put an end to the Macedonian question or to the existence of the Macedonian bands, but will merely entail a change in the aims and character of the struggle which will still continue in that unhappy country.

I have, &c.

(For the Ambassador).

NEVILE HENDERSON.

[37604] No. 263.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 404.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 13, 1913.*

TURCO-PERSIAN frontier.

My telegram No. 389 of 5th August.

Draft identic note prepared at the Russian Embassy, and containing proposals suggested by me, was discussed by the Russian Ambassador with the Grand Vizier and the Minister of War to-day. We showed them the line of the frontier in the Zuab district on the map, and arrived at virtual agreement as to its accuracy except at one point, which is to be discussed again. The Grand Vizier promises to inform us by the 16th August whether he could accept the note as final settlement on which the commission could work, and we have good reason to believe that his reply will be satisfactory.

The frontier line is described in the draft note with considerable detail from Ararat to Mendeh, and sketch map therewith is to be attached to the note.

Neither we nor the Turks have sufficient information respecting the *status quo* frontier between Mendeh and Hawizeh to enable us to lay it down on the map, as recommended in your telegram No. 392 of 9th August, and it was agreed that demarcation shall be left to the commissioners on the basis of the *status quo*, subject to such modifications as are required by geographical and tribal considerations.

I think that the passages intended to preserve the oil company's rights, &c., will prove adequate. They contest the Turkish assertion that the proposed line south of the Kuretu and Elvend Rivers is the *status quo* frontier, and speak [?] of cession of territory in the latter district. The acceptation by the Grand Vizier of the draft article maintaining and explaining the company's rights is also placed on record (see my telegram No. 389 of 5th August).

I should be glad to receive authority to send the note in when the Russian Ambassador does so, provided, of course, that the Grand Vizier requires no essential modification.

There is no time to prepare copies before the messenger leaves to-morrow, but I shall forward them by post. (End of R.)

(Very Confidential.)

The Russian Ambassador is very insistent on the necessity for presenting the note at once, and from hints he has dropped I suspect his anxiety for despatch arises from the belief that he may be withdrawn very shortly in order to bring pressure to bear on Turkey in connection with the Adrianople question.

(Repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 594, and Tehran, No. 356.)

[37649] No. 264.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 302.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 14, 1913.*

ON the Austrian Ambassador approaching Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of revision of the Treaty of Bucharest the latter said that Russia could only admit revision with regard to Cavalla. As the Ambassador insisted that Bulgaria must also be given some of the territory assigned to Servia by the treaty, the Minister for Foreign Affairs declared that Russia and Austria would have to part company. His Excellency has now, as he tells me, definitely dropped the question of Cavalla.

The Turkish Ambassador yesterday told him that atrocities committed by the Bulgarians might force Turkey to declare war on Bulgaria. The Ambassador also referred to possibility of Turkey occupying the territory assigned to Bulgaria beyond the Maritza on its evacuation by the Greek army, as Moslem and Greek population were clamouring for protection against Bulgarians. The Minister for Foreign Affairs warned him against the danger of taking either of these two courses, as were Turkey to declare war on Bulgaria she might find herself at war with another Power. His Excellency is telegraphing to Sophia impressing on the Bulgarian Government the necessity of putting an end to massacres, but he attributes this new move on Turkey's part to machinations of Greeks.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that he had discussed the question of Adrianople with the Emperor two days ago, and had explained that, though from material point of view it was to Russia's interest that Adrianople should remain Turkish, sentimental reasons obliged Russia to try and help Bulgaria. The Emperor had agreed that force should only be used in the very last resort, and had approved his proposals for financial pressure. His Excellency is now awaiting replies from London and Paris. He believes that the Turks cannot hold out for long without money, and would like in any case to secure a respite for two or three months. He is so tired out that his one idea at present is to get away on leave, but should Turkey take any fresh action against Bulgaria he may be compelled to abandon his present pacific policy.

His Excellency expressed satisfaction at hearing from me what you had said in your telegram No. 589 of 11th August about Anglo-Russian understanding.

[37651] No. 265.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 304.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 14, 1913.*

YOUR circular telegram of 1st August: Officers for Albanian gendarmerie.

Aide-mémoire from Russian Government states that they agree to course suggested in your telegram, but add that they are of opinion that officers selected should not be of Roman Catholic faith.

Russian Chargé d'Affaires at The Hague is being instructed in the above sense.

[37745] No. 266.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 401.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 14, 1913.*

TURKISH Ambassador at St. Petersburgh has indicated possibility of Turkish action beyond the Maritza. Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs has warned him against such action, and asks me to say something to the Porte in the same sense.

My telegram No. 390 of 8th August will enable you to act. I cannot imagine why you and Russian Ambassador think it would have the effect indicated in your telegram No. 403 of 13th August, but, as Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs is approaching other Powers with same request, you can consult your French and other colleagues, and join in whatever representation they consider desirable.

[37389] No. 267.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 306.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 14, 1913.*

FOLLOWING telegram received from Vice-Admiral Burney, Scutari:—(End of R.)

"The International Commission request two financial experts, either civil or military, representing two of the Powers, should be sent to Scutari at once to regulate the finances of Scutari and keep accounts of meeting of admirals. These have hitherto been kept by me, but the work is becoming too heavy to be continued."

(R.) You should inform Minister for Foreign Affairs and ascertain his views, suggesting that if he has no objection to admiral's proposal one of the experts should be French and the other German.

[37746] No. 268

Sir Edward Grey to Earl Granville.

(No. 305.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 14, 1913.*

I HAVE pointed out to German Ambassador that if Russia acquiesces in retention of Cavalla by Greece she will feel it more than ever essential to try to recover Adrianople for Bulgaria.

If the Powers drop all diplomatic pressure, Russia is at once face to face with the question of separate action on her part.

I hoped therefore that the German Government would keep alive negotiations on the basis proposed by them for inducing Turkey to evacuate Adrianople.

German Ambassador said he thought German Government were disposed to drop their proposals on the ground that they were not very favourably received. I think it will be a pity if the proposals are dropped.

If the Turks were wise they would evacuate Adrianople in return for whatever would best secure them in possession of Constantinople and Asiatic Turkey, and would formulate their own demands on this point. I admit that they show no signs of this wisdom as yet, but it is too soon to abandon all hope of bringing them to this frame of mind by diplomatic means.

You should speak in this sense when you have an opportunity.

(Repeated to Constantinople, No. 402, for information.)

[38399] No. 269.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 293.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 14, 1913.*

I TOLD Count Benckendorff to-day of what I had said to the German Ambassador yesterday about keeping alive diplomatic pressure in Constantinople on the subject of Adrianople.

I also told Count Benckendorff that, in talking to Hakki Pasha, I had said that, if Turkey was wise, she would realise that she had now an excellent opportunity to get from the Powers almost any conditions she liked in order to secure her possession of Constantinople and Asiatic Turkey in return for withdrawal from Adrianople. Hakki Pasha had told me that, if the Turkish Government sent orders to the army to evacuate Adrianople, it would be the Turkish Government who would have to evacuate Constantinople. Adrianople had become a formula in all the *cafés*, and it was impossible for the Turks to go out of it. I had said that, if this was so, it would not be the first time that the army had prevented a country from taking a wise course.

* Also to Sir R. Rodd (No. 237), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 244), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 595), and Earl Granville (No. 503).

Count Benckendorff expressed satisfaction at what I had said to the German Ambassador. He told me that the Russian Ambassador in Berlin had been informed, in reply to an enquiry, that the German Government did not think of dropping their proposals, on the ground that they did not seem to be approved of by all the Powers.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[38400] No. 270.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 294.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1913.

THE Russian Ambassador informed me verbally to-day of what M. Sazonof had said to the French Ambassador in St. Petersburgh to the following effect:—

"M. Sazonof a dit à l'Ambassadeur de France que la Russie est, conformément à l'avis exprimé par les Gouvernements britannique et français, extrêmement désireux d'éviter toute nécessité d'action effective sur la Turquie pour l'obliger à évacuer Andrinople.

"En ces vues, M. Sazonof croit qu'il serait urgent que l'Angleterre, la Russie et la France déclarent ouvertement que, tant que la Turquie n'aura pas évacué Andrinople, il lui sera refusé toute transaction financière quelle qu'elle soit.

"Je ne vois qu'une possibilité: c'est, qu'une déclaration publique soit faite à cet effet de nature à ne pas laisser de doutes sur sa réalisation, déclaration qui comporterait la solidarité de la France, l'Angleterre et la Russie à cet égard."

The Russian Ambassador also told me of the reply given by M. Pichon, of which I had already heard in the communication from the French Embassy of yesterday.

The Ambassador went on to say that since then there had been a further development: M. Sazonof had approached Germany, who seemed disposed to agree to financial pressure. He was trying to get the countries interested in the Tobacco Régie—of which England was not one—to stop further advances to Turkey; and he was thinking of a declaration by all the Powers that they would discourage advances to Turkey till the Adrianople difficulty was overcome.

I said that, as a matter of fact, there was no disposition in England to lend money to Turkey, and there was not likely to be any under present conditions. I could not control financiers here, but I should be willing to join in any declaration to which the other Powers agreed, as I thought that the lever of financial pressure was the one most likely to be effective.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[37680] No. 271.

Consul Raymond to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 15.)

Sir, *Corfu, August* 9, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith a copy and literal translation of a Royal decree issued by the Greek Government and put in force here this day,* proclaiming the island of Corfu in a state of siege and under the jurisdiction of the military commander at Janina (Albania), which is considered by the Consular Body here contrary to the convention and perpetual neutrality of this island, and they have reported the case to their respective Governments.

I may add that during the war all Ionian Greeks and Jews have been obliged to serve in either the army or navy, their cattle and vehicles commandeered. The harbour used both as military and naval base for the embarkation and disembarkation of Greek and Servian troops, as coal and ammunition depôts, also a depôt for Turkish prisoners, and hospital for the Greek sick and wounded troops, &c.

I have this day advised His Majesty's Minister at Athens by wire, and have sent him a copy of this despatch.

I have, &c.
GEORGE RAYMOND.

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* Not printed.

[37670] No. 272.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 118.)

Sir, *Vienna, August* 13, 1913.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 114 of the 7th instant I have the honour to report that the tone of the press in this capital is now somewhat modified in dealing with the question of a "revision" of the Treaty of Bucharest. The "Reichspost" alone continues to maintain that Austria-Hungary will make good her right to revise it, "even if one or other of the Powers leaves the concert hall."

In general the impression seems to prevail, both in well-informed circles and in the press, that though the treaty may be submitted to the Powers for their examination and eventual endorsement, no serious modifications can be made by them, and the idea of any action by Austria and Russia alone is generally discountenanced.

It is evident that the press, being as yet uncertain as to the precise attitude of the Ballplatz in this question, is at a loss what to say. The "Fremdenblatt" makes little comment, and the "Tageblatt" (which has of late come to be considered as a mouthpiece of the Foreign Office) gives no indication of how Count Berchtold proposes to approach the question, and concludes an article of to-day's date by saying that the declaration made by Prince Fürstenberg at Bucharest reserving to Austria-Hungary the examination of all the provisions of the treaty, was practically invited by the Roumanian Cabinet. The "Allgemeine Zeitung" insists that no final settlement has yet been made, but only a provisional arrangement, and points to all the dangers which still lie ahead in the Balkans. While all the journals lay stress upon the elements of disorder and strife which continue to exist and the necessity for Austria-Hungary to see a more settled state of affairs between her neighbours, only the "Tageblatt" specifies this country's closer interests in the matter, when it says that Austria-Hungary can hardly allow the whole of the upper Vardar valley to go to Servia. This journal finds fault with the French press for its attacks upon Russia and upon Austria-Hungary. It is quite unfair, it says, to accuse the latter of wanting to weaken Servia and Greece or to injure Roumania. Austria-Hungary tried to help Bulgaria when she was surrounded by foes, but she preferred to listen to Russo-French advice. The policy of the dual monarchy is not influenced by an anti-Serb feeling, but by a desire to bring about a state of affairs which may put an end to the terrible strife and jealousies of the Balkan States. This compulsory peace is not calculated to attain the desired end. The "Tageblatt" then quotes the "Times" correspondent in Sophia as saying that the peace of Bucharest ignores the very elements of the distribution of races in Macedonia; and can only produce a new period of conflict and slaughter.

Most journals agree in considering that Bulgaria is left too weak, and will have her revenge as soon as possible (witness King Ferdinand's address to his troops) also that the peace now concluded cannot honestly be expected to last long. But who, they say, is going to modify the terms of the treaty, now that King Charles and the Kaiser have said it is "definitive"?

The telegrams exchanged between the German Emperor and King Charles and between the latter and the Czar, the knowledge that Germany is opposed to her close friend and ally in this question of a revision, all tends to produce a feeling of disappointment and disillusion. The "Neue Freie Presse" says openly that Germany is against Austria; that a revision of the Bucharest Treaty is out of the question. The "Zeit" and the "Arbeiterzeitung" seize the opportunity for attacking Count Berchtold in bitter and sarcastic terms.

The former points out that while the Balkan States demobilise at once when peace is made, Count Berchtold, "the armed spectator," who has brought all the sacrifices and burdens of the past year upon Austria-Hungary, will not yet allow her troops to go home. The man who has upset her finances and all her economic life cannot do his diplomatic work without an army fully prepared for war. While everyone else is rejoicing and is congratulating says the "Arbeiterzeitung" and while a chorus of praise reaches Bucharest from every other quarter, only Vienna is gloomily silent, left out in the cold.

The Christian-Socialist and Clerical "Reichspost" declines to believe in the peace. Austria-Hungary, it says, knows her neighbours and all the ethnical difficulties in Macedonia. The circumstances under which the temporary arrangements have been made at Bucharest, the bitter feelings of Bulgaria, and the words of King Constantine

to his army, all show how inflammable the situation remains; and this is why the Austro-Hungarian Government means to maintain her right to revise the treaty

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador)
A. AKERS DOUGLAS.

[38408] No. 273.

Note communicated by M. de Fleuriau, August 15, 1913.

IL semble que l'Autriche-Hongrie veuille se contenter de faire, non reviser, mais compléter le Traité de Bucarest en y réglant le statut scolaire et religieux des catholiques et des musulmans en Serbie et au Monténégro et des Grecs en Thrace, comme des Bulgares et des Koutzo-Valaques en Grèce et en Serbie. M. Pichon s'est dit disposé à seconder sur ce point les intentions du Cabinet de Vienne.

Démarche turque à Saint-Pétersbourg prévoyant l'envoi de troupes ottomanes au delà de la Maritza pour protéger les musulmans contre les Bulgares.

Ambassade de France, Londres,
le 15 août, 1913.

[37739] No. 274.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 15.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, August 15, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 14th August, from Vice-Admiral Burney

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure in No. 274.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *August 14, 1913.*

FIRST instalment 700*l.* was due for payment last December, money for bridges amounting to 1,545*l.* being borrowed in 1911 by Turkish Government at 9 per cent. per annum. Lender now wants his money returned to him with interest added. As first instalment not paid, and as it was due before international forces occupied Scutari, it is considered that Turkish Government should pay it (700*l.*).

[37698] No. 275.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 406.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 14, 1913.*

MY telegrams Nos. 401 of 11th August and 403 of 13th August.

Official tour of the Vali of Adrianople, in which places west of the Maritza are included, is announced. According to the local press the Turkish troops have occupied Soufli and Demotika, west of that river, and even Ortakeui, 40 kilom. south-west of Adrianople. Obviously inspired telegrams from Kirdjali, the native district of Talaat Bey, and other places as far west as the Mesta River imploring protection of Ottoman troops against alleged Bulgarian excesses. This may be taken as prelude to advance still farther west.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[37778] No. 276.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 15, 1913.*

YOUR despatch No. 254 of 13th August.

German Foreign Office have not yet received consular statement from Rodosto, owing probably to their being represented there by an Austrian consular agent.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs says that as soon as he receives it he will instruct German Ambassador to bring it to the notice of the Porte without waiting for action by his colleagues.

[37779] No. 277

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 15, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 303 of 14th August.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs entirely approves in principle two financial experts being sent to Scutari, and is himself indifferent as to nationality of either. He is not very anxious to send more German officials to Albania than he can help, for financial and similar reasons, but would be prepared to do so if generally desired by Powers. He is, however, unable to agree to appointment of a German unless he receives assurances of Austrian acquiescence. He feels sure that Austria would strongly object to neither expert being Austrian, and, as Austrian Government are at present very much displeased with Germany, he is even more anxious than usual to do nothing more to offend them. He could, if you wish it, enquire views of Austrian Government, but he thinks it better not to do so without asking you first, and would prefer that you should make the suggestion to Austria rather than he. He began by saying that experts should be French and Russian, but agreed when I remarked that there were sure to be objections to both representing the Triple *Entente*. I said that I presumed that Italy would object to one expert being Austrian if the other were not Italian, and he said that Italy and Austria might draw lots for which of them should supply the expert.

[37780] No. 278.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 15, 1913.*

I HAVE spoken to Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs in sense of your telegram No. 305 of 14th August.

He replied that Germany would take no initiative, although she would not refuse to join in representations unanimously agreed on by the other Powers. He had gathered that there was no chance of either France or Russia agreeing to 4 per cent. customs increase without their claiming other concessions in return, and he considered that any offer to Turkey which did not contain that point would be utterly fruitless. In fact, Turkish Ambassador here had declared positively that least Turkey could accept would be complete customs autonomy, and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs considered that absolutely out of the question. I urged danger of isolated action by Russia, and asked whether he did not think diplomatic representations, even if foredoomed to failure, would be of use in postponing that danger and gaining time, but he would not agree, and expressed his confidence that Russian danger was much less than it had been. Russian public opinion was much less excited, and her sympathy with Bulgaria at a low ebb, and he did not believe that she would be willing to face risks of isolated action. He considered the only thing that Powers could do was to encourage direct negotiations between Bulgaria and Turkey, at the same time putting pressure on latter by refusing funds. I asked whether the latter course would be very efficacious, as private banks could not be prevented from making loans, and whether, supposing that was efficacious, there was not a danger of Turkey becoming bankrupt, which would be disastrous for her creditors. He

did not think much of my first objection, but had to admit latter danger. I then asked how Bulgaria could negotiate with success as I could see nothing which she could offer. He said that she could renounce claim to indemnity and agree to rectification of Enos-Midia frontier, and allow Turkey to keep holy places. I pointed out that idea of indemnity was practically dead already, and that Turkey by keeping Adrianople had her frontier rectification and holy places. He could not deny my arguments, but nevertheless maintained that above was the best and only course.

He assured me very solemnly that Germany had not changed her attitude, and that she was as anxious as anybody to get Turks out of Adrianople, provided that the Great Powers could achieve this object by diplomacy and not by force, but he could not approve making representations which we knew would be refused.

[37777] No. 279.

Mr C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 174. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Bucharest, August 15, 1913.*

ROUMANIA, Servia, Greece, and Montenegro, fearing dilatoriness on the part of Bulgaria, or that the Sobranjé may refuse to ratify the Treaty of Bucharest, have, I learn, concluded a secret agreement whereby they undertake to guarantee its execution, as against Bulgaria, by all means, diplomatic or force of arms.

At the request of my informant I would beg that the above be kept secret.

[37800] No. 280.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 128.)
Sir, *Sophia, August 4, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose a document left at His Majesty's Legation by a deputation of leading Macedonian Bulgarians, on behalf, as it states, of 150,000 Macedonian refugees—a number which there seems reason to believe to be somewhat exaggerated—pleading for the establishment of an autonomous Macedonia.

I did not receive the deputation, but caused them to be informed that their petition would be forwarded to London.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

Enclosure in No. 280.

Petition communicated to His Majesty's Legation at Sophia by leading Macedonian Bulgarians.

A leurs Excellences MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Sophia,

LA guerre libératrice des Balkans, provoquée principalement par les souffrances et les luttes de la Macédoine, n'a pas assuré la liberté politique désirée par les Bulgares macédoniens. Tout semble indiquer que la majeure partie de ceux-ci continuera de vivre sous une domination étrangère, plus oppressive assurément que la domination turque. Les quelques dizaines de mille Bulgares massacrés, les quelques mille réfugiés en Albanie et les 150,000 qui, jusqu'à l'heure actuelle, ont cherché refuge et salut en Bulgarie en sont la preuve éclatante. Car jamais, aux pires moments du régime turc, on ne vit un nombre de fugitifs si considérable. Les Bulgares restés sous l'autorité serbe ou grecque seraient, sans conteste, privés des conditions élémentaires de développement politique et national. La première mesure des nouveaux oppresseurs serait la dénationalisation forcée des Bulgares. Le régime d'occupation serbo-grec en a fourni jusqu'ici des preuves abondantes.

Considérant la longue lutte menée par les Bulgares de Macedoine, les sacrifices énormes qu'ils se sont imposés pour la défense de leur nationalité et pour la conquête de la liberté politique, il est impossible d'admettre un seul instant qu'ils se résigneront à la serbisation ou à l'hellénisation forcée. Les révolutions seront inéluctables.

Aussi, dans l'intérêt de la paix des Balkans et au nom de la justice, il est nécessaire que les Grandes Puissances, qui ont pris jusqu'ici une part si vive au sort des populations macédoniennes, garantissent à celles-ci des conditions de développement national et politique. Dans ce but la mesure la plus efficace reste toujours la création d'une Macédoine autonome, capable d'assurer les droits de toutes les nationalités qui l'habitent. C'est pour cette Macedoine autonome que les Bulgares macédoniens ont lutté sans défaillance depuis vingt ans et qu'ils continueront de lutter à l'avenir.

Au nom de 150,000 réfugiés bulgares macédoniens.

G. BAJDAROF, de Broda (Serres), *Professeur de Gymnase.*
Dr. AHLIMITROF, de Salonique, *ancien Juge à la Cour d'Appel de Monastir.*
B. MIRTCHEF, de Prilep, *Directeur de Gymnase*
T. PASCALEF, de Nevrokop, *ancien Député au Parlement ottoman*
TH. PAVLOF, d'Uscub, *ancien Député au Parlement ottoman.*
K. TSIPOUCHEF, de Radovich, *Négociant.*

Sophia, le 21 juillet (3 août), 1913.

[37802] No. 281.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 130.)
Sir, *Sophia, August 10, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Gillhat-Smith reporting on recent events at Varna prior and subsequent to the Roumanian occupation.

The proceedings of the Roumanian army were of a remarkable description, and had a distinct tinge of opera bouffe. Mr Gillhat-Smith states that after the hoisting of the Roumanian flag over the municipal building and the reading and posting up in the Roumanian language of a proclamation to the effect that Varna was henceforth to be considered as forming a portion of Roumanian territory, buglers marched round the principal square playing the well-known triumphal march from "Aïda."

Subsequently the Roumanian forces evacuated the town.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX IRONSIDE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 281.

Vice-Consul Gillhat-Smith to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Varna, July 14, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report upon the recent events occurring in this town as follows:

Shortly after midnight on the night of the 10th and 11th July, the news came that the Roumanian forces had crossed the frontier and were advancing Baltchik, and during the whole morning of the 11th the military evacuation of the town proceeded. Considerable stores of ammunition were despatched by rail, with archives and registers. The fleet left for Bourgas; seventy-five sailors were left to police the town under the command of the Prefect of the Police Michaelof. All other military authorities, of whatever grade or rank, who had not yet left the town, discarded their uniforms, and likewise did the lame and wounded soldiers, who were forced to leave the hospitals. The latter were left nearly empty, but they have quickly filled up again upon the arrival of fresh batches of wounded during the night of the 12th and 13th July. The barracks are now flying the red cross. A portion of the marines who were among the last to leave on the evening of the 11th retired, it seems, across the plain through which runs the canal joining Lake Devna to the sea, and up

into the wooded heights beyond, along the road to Bourgas. They destroyed the wooden bridge over the canal and now cross and recross by means of a large Meanwhile the last detachments of those who had paid the exemption tax were leaving for the Servian and Greek frontiers. They were a mixed lot of varying ages. Some Moslems and Christians who were being drilled at the time of the Roumanian news were disbanded.

On the 12th July news arrived of an unknown arrangement with Roumania, and some marines returned and uniforms were again seen in the streets. It was said that the fleet would also return. It has been impossible to report anything definite concerning the port. It was not officially closed, but vessels could not enter on account of the absence of the steam tug which pilots ships through the mine zone, and which had fled to Bourgas with the fleet. It has since returned, and the Austrian Lloyd has arrived from Constantinople. The port is now said to be again closed, as the tug is ready to leave again at a moment's notice.

Yesterday, the 13th July, it was officially announced that the Roumanians had occupied Dobritch and Baltchik. It was also rumoured that they were descending upon Pravadia to cut off communications with Sophia. There was considerable alarm among the population, but not so much as upon the arrival of the first news two days before.

I know nothing of the movements of the invading troops, which have caused, apparently, this confusion, these orders and counter-orders.

Finally, telegrams are not accepted for abroad, and I am warned that even telegrams to Sophia may be delayed and interrupted.

I have, &c.

BERNARD GILLIAT-SMITH

Enclosure 2 in No. 281.

Vice-Consul Gilliat-Smith to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 25.)

Sir, *Varna, July* 15, 1913.

IN connection with my despatch No. 24 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that, according to the local Greek version of the recent events, there was no understanding whatever with Roumania with regard to an eventual occupation of Varna.

The precipitate evacuation of the town is ascribed to sheer panic. M. Paruciades, the public prosecutor, after protesting in vain with the prefect against the departure of even the necessary officials to guard the prison, telegraphed to Sophia, as a result of which the military authorities received orders to return. Since their first return they have prepared to leave or stay, donning or discarding their uniforms accordingly as rumours announce the advance or halt of the Roumanian troops.

I have, &c.

BERNARD GILLIAT-SMITH

Enclosure 3 in No. 281.

Vice-Consul Gilliat-Smith to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 26.)

Sir, *Varna, July* 17, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that seven Roumanian cavalrymen, afterwards increased to twelve, and then to twenty-one, entered the town on the morning of the 15th instant and immediately closed and guarded the prefecture, the post-office, the National Bank, and the station, placing sentinels at these posts. They thus held the town in subjection until yesterday afternoon, the 16th instant, when they left in the direction whence they had come, namely, one detachment towards Dobritch and the other towards Baltchik.

The events succeeded each other as follows :—

At sunset on the 14th instant some Bulgarian scouts announced the approach of the Roumanians by firing off their guns on the outskirts of the town in the neighbourhood of the British cotton-mill. Almost at the same time seven Roumanian cavalrymen entered the outlying village, which is separated from the town by the Moslem cemetery. They enquired whether there were any soldiers in Varna, and were told that all had

left for the war. They then retired, and only entered the town the following morning, meeting a second batch of their men, belonging to another regiment, and in the company of the Bulgarian prefect of the police, whom they had come across while he was riding out on the road to Baltchik.

They told the latter that they had come to take over the town, and that a regiment was on its way to Varna and might be expected in the course of the morning, and that the municipality was to prepare provisions for the troops. The prefect of the police therefore led them round the town, giving the prefect of the department time to wire to Sophia. They had a very limited number of soldiers at their disposal, and the prefect of the police proposed to continue the policing of the town with his own men. He also placed five Bulgarian sentinels for every one Roumanian at the posts mentioned above. Most of the Roumanian soldiers who were not actually on duty passed the time asleep on the ground, being guarded by Bulgarian sailors.

After one day and a half had passed and no army arrived, the populace began to grow restless, and adopted a threatening attitude towards the Roumanians. The Austrian consul and the Russian vice-consul requested the three Roumanian lieutenants who were at the head of the two detachments to allow them to get into communication with their Governments. The Roumanians thereupon removed the sentinel from the post and telegraph office, and within an hour of this all sentinels were removed and the two detachments left the town as above stated. It is perhaps worth noting that the Roumanian lieutenants told the Russian vice-consul that they were at the head of a reconnoitring party, and made no mention of their orders to take over the town.

Meanwhile I had learnt from the mayor that it was possible to telegraph to Sophia from the station, using a private wire which is said to run from Varna as far as Shumla under ground, and is used when the usual means of communication are interrupted, and which had not been seized by the Roumanians. I therefore despatched my telegram No. 20.

I likewise telegraphed *en clair* the departure of the Roumanians from the central telegraph office, when I was informed that that line was reopened

The success of the Roumanians' *coup* was only possible owing to the Bulgarian authorities' belief that a large Roumanian army was to arrive at any moment in Varna.

Public opinion, however, is greatly incensed against the authorities, and also against the Greeks, whose attitude has been one of aggressively joyous expectancy.

I have, &c.

BERNARD GILLIAT-SMITH.

Enclosure 4 in No. 281

Vice-Consul Gilliat-Smith to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No 27.)

Sir, *Varna, July* 18, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday evening, the 17th instant, at about 7 P.M., one Roumanian officer, accompanied by four soldiers, the latter with drawn swords and loaded revolvers, rode into Varna along the Baltchik road, entered the prefecture, and told the prefect that he had orders to summon the mayor and the prefect of the police to attend upon the colonel commanding a troop of some 200 to 300 Roumanian soldiers then advancing upon Varna, and about 4 kilom. distant from the town

This they did, each driving out in a separate carriage and guarded each by two Roumanians riding on either side of the carriages.

The colonel commanding the Roumanian troops (cavalrymen and cyclists) informed the mayor that he would occupy the town on the morrow, and that the population were to consider the Roumanians, not as enemies, but as a "company of occupation"

The mayor and the prefect of the police then returned to the town, the former showing signs of great emotion.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock this morning, 18th July, the whole available Roumanian force entered the town and rode past the military club, coming to a halt in the central square in front of the municipal building. They hoisted the Roumanian flag over the said building, and read and posted up in the Roumanian language a proclamation making known that Varna was henceforth to be considered as forming a part of the territory of Roumania, forbidding private or official correspondence of any kind "with

the exterior," and ordering the population to continue their agricultural work with the knowledge and under the supervision of the Roumanian military authorities.

The inhabitants of Varna were likewise ordered to deliver up their firearms to the military authorities.

After the proclamation a band, consisting exclusively of clarions, marched round the principal square playing the well-known triumphal march from the opera "Aïda."

At 2 P.M. the order for the delivery of arms was countermanded. At 3 P.M. the Roumanian flag was removed from the municipal building and the proclamation torn down. This is said to have occurred immediately after the arrival of the Roumanian General Culcer at Traka, 4 kilom. outside the town. The Bulgarian flag was hoisted over the prefecture, and the entire Roumanian force left in considerable haste along the road to Baltchik. To make sure of their departure, I followed them 8 kilom. out of the town, and also visited the grounds of the Palace of Euxinograd, which I found they had not entered. Many of the cyclists had punctured tyres, and those who were unable to mend them by the roadside, surrounded by little crowds of Bulgarian onlookers, were obliged to walk, pushing their bicycles, and thus remaining miles behind the main force, in batches of two or three, or frequently singly.

I have the honour to enclose a translation of the Roumanian original proclamation.

All reports concerning the misbehaviour of the Roumanian troops on the one hand or of the Bulgarian population on the other are apparently equally false.

I have, &c.
BERNARD GILLIAT-SMITH.

[37803] No. 282.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 131. Confidential.)

Sir, *Sophia, August 9, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to state that certain reports reached me respecting the murder of a large number of Turkish prisoners of war by Bulgarian troops at Stara Zagora towards the end of last month, and the German Minister informed me in the course of conversation that he had received a letter from Yava Pasha, one of the Ottoman generals now a prisoner in this capital, stating that some 600 prisoners had been murdered in cold blood at that place.

A young Bulgarian, whose name, for obvious reasons, cannot be mentioned, reported to His Majesty's vice-consul at Sophia that he was present at Stara Zagora at the time when the Turkish prisoners attempted to break out of the brewery where they were confined. They had apparently become excited at the sight of the peasants fleeing before the Turkish advance and attempted to escape and to obtain arms, but were shot down by troops and militia. The witness had heard that some 500 were killed.

An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also informed Mr. Heard that the prisoners had attempted to disarm the guard of a convoy of other prisoners which was passing near their place of confinement.

I mentioned the matter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and his Excellency stated that it was unfortunately true that a considerable number of Turkish prisoners had been killed at Stara Zagora. They had, he asserted, got above themselves at the news of the advance of the Ottoman troops into Bulgaria proper, and when they saw Bulgarian refugees from the country fleeing through the town they attacked them with "decanters" from the restaurants. It had, he stated, become necessary to attack them in turn.

I said to his Excellency that I considered that the matter had been a most unfortunate one, and that it had been reported in Constantinople that 3,000 Turkish prisoners had been massacred in cold blood (see Mr. Marling's telegram No. 387). His Excellency replied that these were merely the usual Turkish exaggerations.

I should be inclined myself to limit the massacre to about 500 prisoners.

Enclosed are copies of two statements communicated to His Majesty's Legation by the Bulgarian Government relative to the occurrence above mentioned and to the situation of the Turkish prisoners of war generally.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 282

Statement communicated to Sir H. Bax-Ironside by Bulgarian Government.

L'INVASION de la Thrace par les troupes ottomanes et la violation de l'ancienne frontière turco-bulgare ont eu des conséquences déplorables. Outre les incendies, meurtres, pillages commis par les troupes turques et la panique qui s'ensuivit au milieu de la population de la Bulgarie du Sud, les prisonniers de guerre turcs, au nombre de 100,000 hommes environ, ont pris une attitude très inquiétante à l'égard des autorités. Déjà dès la réception de la nouvelle de l'entrée des Turcs à Andrinople les prisonniers turcs ont donné des signes évidents d'impatience. Peu après, la nouvelle de la violation de l'ancienne frontière turco-bulgare a excité encore davantage leurs esprits, surtout dans les localités non pourvues de troupes bulgares considérables. Le 12 (25) juillet, au moment où la panique avait fait fuir toute la population chrétienne de Stara Zagora et que les routes étaient obstruées de fuyards venant de Thrace, un grand nombre de prisonniers turcs ont tenté de s'emparer des armes de la garde et du dépôt d'armes et de se joindre aux troupes turques qu'ils croyaient ne pas tarder d'apparaître. Dans la lutte sont tombés plusieurs prisonniers turcs, tués et blessés, ainsi que quelques soldats bulgares. Des balles égarées ont atteint aussi quelques personnes de la population locale. L'ordre a été vite rétabli.

L'invasion des troupes turques et la grande liberté dont les prisonniers de guerre jouissent en Bulgarie ont créé une situation qui ne saurait être tolérée à l'avenir. Dans les conditions actuelles, leurs divergences politiques ont été transportées de leur patrie en Bulgarie. Les prisonniers sont divisés entre eux en deux camps opposés. Leurs animosités réciproques se sont manifestées, surtout à Berkovitza, Vratza, Tchirpan et Sophia. Récemment encore, le Lieutenant-Colonel Chétik Bey, aide de camp du commandant du secteur est de la forteresse d'Andrinople, s'est vu infliger cinq jours d'arrêts à la suite de l'insulte grave et des voies de fait sur la personne de son ancien chef, provoquées par une vive discussion d'ordre politique. Cette situation a fait prendre quelques mesures restrictives à l'égard des prisonniers de guerre.

D'autre part, plusieurs prisonniers ottomans internés dans la Bulgarie du Nord, où l'action des autorités a été paralysée par l'invasion roumaine, se sont trouvés en liberté et se sont dispersés dans les villages, où ils menacent l'ordre publique.

Sophia, le 23 juillet (5 août), 1913.

Enclosure 2 in No. 282.

Statement communicated to Sir H. Bax-Ironside by Bulgarian Government.

GROSSISSANT démesurément l'affaire de Stara Zagora exposée dans la notice d'hier, les cercles de Constantinople répandent à l'étranger des nouvelles sur le prétendu meurtre dans cette ville de 3,000 prisonniers de guerre.

Ces nouvelles, comme les autres informations de Constantinople de cette nature, sont fausses. Elles sont lancées dans le but manifeste de préparer l'opinion publique étrangère à une invasion éventuelle de l'armée turque dans la Bulgarie du Sud, invasion que la Turquie prépare dans le but probable de faciliter son maintien à Andrinople, en consentant plus tard d'évacuer l'ancien territoire bulgare.

Sophia, le 24 juillet (6 août), 1913.

[37804] No. 283.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 132.)

Sir, *Sophia, August 10, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gilliat-Smith, reporting the complaints made by the inhabitants of the Varna district of ill-treatment by Roumanian troops, and enclosing a memorandum in Bulgarian on the subject drawn up by the Prefect of Varna.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX IRONSIDE.

Enclosure in No. 283.

Vice-Consul Gilliat-Smith to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 28.)

Sir, *Varna, August 4, 1913.*

IN connection with my telegram No. 25 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that on the 26th ultimo a deputation of peasants from villages in the department of Varna betook themselves to the Prefecture and complained of the treatment to which they and their families had been subjected by the Roumanian soldiers, who were ill-treating and beating the men, violating the women, and destroying private property, also seizing provisions without giving a receipt or payment, and committing various thefts.

The deputation consisted of about a hundred men and women, the latter carrying babies. They subsequently marched round to all the consulates, again stating their grievances.

The Prefect of Varna promised to send to all the consulates in this town copies of a memorandum, setting out in detail statements of excesses committed by the Roumanian soldiers in the Departments of Varna and Provadia. This document I have now received, and have the honour to transmit in duplicate.*

The text is somewhat long, and consists largely of repetitions describing the same offences committed in different villages.

The excesses were committed between the 9th and 14th July (o.s.) (22nd and 27th July) by parties generally consisting of from thirty to forty soldiers, commanded by one officer. Their object seems to have been to seize money and to forage, and their pretext the disarmament of the peasantry. The mayors and local tax gatherers are those who have most suffered from beating (with one exception, described below), administered by the soldiers and by the officer in command. Only in two villages in the Department of Provadia, namely, at Emir Ganzi and at Ak Koyoun, is it expressly stated that women were violated. In other cases women are alleged to have been beaten.

The soldiers' method of procedure seems to have been as follows —

Upon entering a village they generally fired a few shots, scaring the population. They made straightway for the town hall, where they arrested the mayor—when they could find him—questioned him, ransacked his archives, breaking open doors and cupboards, took from him money and valuables, and generally ended by beating him together with the tax gatherer. They then repaired to the station or telegraph office and behaved there much in the same way, after which they fed and drank in the public-houses, and, becoming more riotous, made house to house visits, during which the excesses complained of by the deputation were committed. They likewise took money by force or by threats from passers-by.

The worst case of beating occurred in the village of Kozludja, in the Department of Varna, where the Roumanians arrested and bound one Ivan Petkof, a student, and ordered him to deliver up the official telegrams reporting movements of Roumanian troops, which they alleged he had in his possession. They subsequently undressed Petkof and laid him out, face downwards, on a bench in the telegraph room at the station, and the Roumanian officer personally administered a thrashing with a whip until Petkof lost consciousness, and, according to the Bulgarian memorandum, until he began to evacuate excrement. He has now been conveyed to the Varna State Hospital.

The Prefect tells me that since the publication of the enclosed memorandum,* fresh cases of similar excesses have come to his knowledge.

He points out that this treatment of the peasantry is not in accordance with the tenor of Proclamation No. 145, issued by the commander-in-chief of the Roumanian army, the Crown Prince Ferdinand, wherein it is stated that "the Bulgarian peasants have nothing to fear from an army which is entering their territory, not as an enemy but in order to put an end to certain eventualities, and in view of the present critical situation."

I have, &c.
BERNARD GILLIAT-SMITH.

* Not printed.

[37805] No. 284.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 133.)

Sir, *Sophia, August 9, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 122 and 125 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to enclose the statements enumerated in the accompanying list,* which have been communicated to His Majesty's Legation as well as to the other foreign missions in this capital, on the subject of excesses committed by regular and irregular forces of the various countries in the present war.

It will be noted that Nos. 1 to 15 relate to the misdoings of the forces opposed to Bulgaria, while No. 16 is a defence of the Bulgarian troops against accusations made against them by the Greek authorities in respect to occurrences at the village of Doxat. I would venture to draw attention to No. 15 as especially interesting, purporting as it does to prove the excesses on the part of the Greek troops by extracts from the captured letters of Greek soldiers. The originals of these letters have been submitted to Mr. Bourchier, the correspondent of the "Times," who finds them to be written on the notepaper issued to the Greek army, and to be in all respects apparently genuine.

With the above possible exception, it is not possible to check the accuracy of the assertions made, but they are broadly consonant with the evidence of the refugees who have reached Sophia, and their very baldness and lack of artistic arrangement give them a certain air of genuineness which contrasts with the elaborate and highly-coloured publications emanating from certain other quarters.

I may add that the accusations of unspeakable barbarities made against the Bulgarian armies were not fully known here until some time after they had been widely disseminated in Europe and the enclosed communications are in the nature of a retort, hastily prepared by the Bulgarian Government, to the atrocity campaign which has been promoted from interested quarters in the foreign press.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

P.S. *August 11.*—I take the opportunity to enclose two further statements which have reached me since the above despatch was written.* One of them, No. 18 on the list, contains further extracts from the captured letters of Greek soldiers, proving the commission of excesses by them.

H. O. B.-I.

[37807] No. 285.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 135.)

Sir, *Sophia, August 10, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 337 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to enclose copy of the note from the Bulgarian Government therein referred to, in which they announce their decision to sign the preliminary treaty of peace at Bucharest, and to demobilise immediately, in spite of the danger of a Turkish invasion of Southern Bulgaria, appealing to the Great Powers to protect them from that danger, and to secure the withdrawal of the Ottoman forces to the frontier stipulated in the Treaty of London.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 285.

M. Chenadief to Sir H. Baz-Ironside.

M. le Ministre, *Sophia, le 24 juillet (6 août)*, 1913.

ANIMÉ du désir de voir enfin la paix retablie dans les Balkans—désir que les Grandes Puissances ont elles-mêmes exprimé à plusieurs reprises—le Gouvernement Royal vient de donner à ses délégués à la conférence de Bucarest les instructions nécessaires pour signer le traité préliminaire de paix, si lourds que soient les sacrifices que ce traité lui impose. En même temps, donnant une nouvelle preuve de son amour pour la paix, le Gouvernement Royal a décidé de procéder, immédiatement après la signature du traité, à la démobilisation de son armée, malgré le danger, plus menaçant aujourd'hui que jamais, d'une invasion turque dans la Bulgarie du Sud. Cette décision du Gouvernement Royal est due à sa profonde conviction que les Grandes Puissances, qui se sont employées, en qualité de médiatrices, en faveur de l'adoption de la ligne frontière Midia–Enos, et qui ne manqueront pas d'apprécier à leur juste valeur les sentiments pacifiques de la Bulgarie, sauront imposer à la Turquie le respect du Traité de Londres, interviendront sous leurs auspices, et voudront bien recourir à tous les moyens qui sont à leur portée pour prévenir une invasion turque dans la Bulgarie du Sud—invasion qui apporterait la terreur et la dévastation complète du pays.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de la prier de vouloir bien en saisir le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique et de lui communiquer que le Gouvernement bulgare lui adresse à ce sujet un appel pressant.

Veuillez, &c.

N. GHÉNADIEF.

[38319] No. 286.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 186.)

Sir, *Athens, August 11, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch which has been addressed to me by Captain Boyle, naval attaché to His Majesty's Legation, containing remarks on the 8th Division of the Greek army which he was allowed to accompany during its recent operations in Southern Macedonia and Thrace.

I have, &c.

F. ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 286.

Captain Boyle to Sir F. Elliot.

Sir, *Athens, August 9, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following remarks upon the 8th Division of the Greek army which I accompanied from the 24th July until the 1st August —

It consists of three battalions of Cretan infantry (the 4th battalion is at present attached to the 7th Division).

Three 4-guns batteries of field artillery.

One 4-gun battery of mountain artillery.

One squadron of cavalry.

One company of engineers, and details.

To these were added half a battalion of seamen and two companies of Evzones.

Armament.—The field artillery is entirely armed and equipped with captured Turkish material. The crescent still is visible on the limbers and waggons.

Mountain Battery.—Four Schnieder 75 m.m. guns fitted with Goerz Schnieder panoramic sights, graduated up to 4,700 metres. The armament and stores of this battery is entirely new, having been unpacked from the cases in which it arrived from Marseilles on the passage between Piræus and Cavalla. The range finder was the only

exception being a 3' 6" (?) instrument Akt. Geo. Hahn, Cassel captured from the Turks.

Infantry.—Entirely armed with Turkish rifles and several men wore Turkish accoutrements. They are well equipped with great coats, waterproofs, &c., but the clothes are ragged and the boots in very bad condition.

Discipline on the march.—There was none among the infantry who straggled all over the road, fell out when they wished to rest, get water, or take a short cut.

The battalions seemed much under officered, and I was told that several were reserve officers. They were certainly very elderly.

The men, however, marched well, and were very cheerful.

The mountain battery were always well closed up and no falling out was allowed.

Precautions as regards water.—None were taken, the men drank when and where they pleased. On two occasions men were seen washing in a stream, above others filling there bottles.

Cholera.—The Bulgarians were known to have had this disease, but no precautions were taken against it. At Xantho, in spite of warnings from the inhabitants, troops camped closed to some buildings Bulgarians had lived in, and where several cases had occurred.

Signal arrangements.—Were non-existent. On one occasion a mounted messenger was sent twelve miles with an important message, which two heliograph stations could have got through to headquarters with ease.

Heliographs and lamps were used to keep up communication with a destroyer which kept level with the advance.

The conduct of the troops.—This seemed excellent, the greatest good humour prevailed. Much care was taken by individual soldiers to avoid injuring cultivated land, and the Turks were kindly treated.

English speaking soldiers were very numerous and many introduced themselves as from the United States, Canada, and Australia, while a few were from Cyprus.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM H. D. BOYLE,
Naval Attaché.

[37835] No. 287.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 187.)

Sir, *Athens, August 11, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a proclamation addressed by King Constantine to his army and navy on the signature of the protocol fixing the boundaries between Greece and Bulgaria.* By His Majesty's order, a salute of 101 guns was fired upon that occasion at every military and naval station.

I enclose also a copy of a telegram from the King to M. Venizelos,* expressing his Royal appreciation of his services to the country, and bestowing upon him the Grand Cross of the Order of the Redeemer. It will be remembered that after the revision of the Constitution King George wished to confer that honour upon his Prime Minister, and that M. Venizelos declined it on the ground that his Sovereign could only give decorations upon the advice of his responsible Ministers. It was obvious that under present circumstances M. Venizelos could not maintain that ultra-constitutional attitude.

The signature of peace has been received here with general relief and satisfaction, notwithstanding the disappointment of some extravagant hopes. To have secured Salonica and Cavalla, to have done with a campaign which, however glorious, was extraordinarily bloody, is felt to be enough both for profit and for honour.

I have, &c.

F. ELLIOT.

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* Not printed.

[37808] No. 288.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 136.) *Sophia, August 12, 1913.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith a memorandum by Mr. Vice-Consul Heard, covering a report of evidence received by him from refugees and other eye-witnesses respecting excesses committed by Greek regular and irregular forces in the late war.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 288.

Memorandum by Vice-Consul Heard.

FROM the evidence contained in the enclosures in this memorandum it would appear that over the whole area covered by the advance of the Greek army, as far east as the district of Serres, the wholesale extermination of the Bulgarian population has been carried out on a systematic plan by the Greek troops, with the assistance of organised bands of Antartes. As regards the districts lying further to the east and south of Serres such as Drama, Xanthi &c. I have received no information, and can accordingly express no opinion as to what may have occurred in that region.

The evidence in enclosure 1 was collected direct from refugees whom I interviewed at Sophia, Samakof, Dubnitza, Rilo, &c., or whom I met on the roads, and I would venture to say that the peculiar value of their testimony lies in the fact that it was given spontaneously without any previous warning and without the possibility of its having been prompted by interested parties. In most cases they were questioned separately, and corroboration of various important facts (such, for instance, as that of the Kukush massacre) was often obtained from witnesses found in places widely distant from each other. In nearly all cases only actual eye-witnesses were selected for interrogation, and so great is the number of refugees who have been swarming over the frontiers for the last month that the mass of evidence obtainable is only limited by the time at one's disposal for collecting it. I could read Greek, and I nearly always had someone to assist me as interpreter, as the peasants' dialect is often hard to understand but I could always follow the drift of their narratives, and frequently stopped and cross-questioned them when their evidence was not clear.

I am aware that the testimony given by these refugees is in direct contradiction with the assertions made by the Greek Government, and with the reports supplied by a large number of foreign newspaper correspondents. The Bulgarian troops, it is claimed, massacred, violated, burned, &c., whilst the Greeks are alleged to have behaved in an exemplary manner, or only burnt villages by way of retaliation.

This is not borne out by the facts at my disposal.

The Greeks began to devastate the villages of Kukush and committed various atrocities in the town itself some days, I believe, before the first massacre attributed to the Bulgarians at Nigrita occurred. The excuse of retaliation cannot then be put forward, as their excesses began from the very outset of the war. Whatever massacres may have been committed by the Bulgarians must, I think, have been on a far smaller scale, for the following reasons: The Bulgarian forces almost from the beginning of hostilities were being everywhere hard pressed, and were fighting a succession of rear-guard actions against overwhelming odds. I am informed that there were not more than 24,000 Bulgarians scattered over a front of some 80 kilom., and that the men were soon reduced to a state of complete exhaustion. Under such circumstances they would have had little leisure for indulging in the excesses which were attributed to them. The vast bulk of the population in the field of operations was Bulgarian, though in certain parts there were large numbers of Turkish villages. I am inclined to believe, though I am open to correction, that outside the towns Greek and Patriarchist inhabitants were comparatively few in number, except in the regions east and south of Serres. The Greeks, on the other hand, had ample leisure and

ample scope for carrying out what would appear to have been a deliberate plan for the systematic extermination of the far more numerous Bulgarian population.

There is no doubt that the "Grecomane" population, especially in the regions of Serres and Strumnitza, were well organised for assisting the Greek arms. Their numerous bands of Antartes showed much activity both in harassing the Bulgarian communications and in massacring the Bulgarian population. They were well armed, and the Bulgarians now admit that they made a great mistake in not keeping a more watchful eye on them at a time when their fancied security from any danger from a Greek invasion had made them over-confident. Serres, after the Bulgarian garrison had been scared away by the false alarm of a Greek raid, was completely in their hands for some days, and the Metropolitan took over the command of the town. The massacres which were attributed to the Bulgarians here may to some extent be accounted for by the excesses which the Greeks are alleged to have committed during their absence (*cf* (H) 19 and (M) 25), and in the fierce fighting which followed it is not surprising that a vast amount of damage was done. The Bulgarians deny that the archbishop was killed, but I have little doubt that had they caught him, that prelate would have received but short shrift. The accounts of the events in Serres, however, are too confused for me to be able to state confidently what actually took place there, but I venture to suggest that other than Greek sources should be consulted if the proper share of the responsibility is to be allotted to each of the parties concerned. The Bulgarians also allege that the massacres at Demir Hissar and Doxato were provoked by similar revolts of Greek partisans, but I have received no direct information concerning the events in those places, ground for further enquiry would, however, appear to exist in these cases also.

It may well be asked how it is that the reports of foreign correspondents are so diametrically opposed to the general tenour of the information supplied by refugees. I would hazard the conjecture that their Greek informants took care that the correspondents should see nothing except through Greek spectacles. Given a complete ignorance of the racial distribution of the population and a properly receptive attitude of mind, it is possible to make an undiscriminating observer believe almost anything. Burning villages may be easily explained as the work of the enemy, mutilated corpses which all look very much alike, do not disclose their previous religious denomination. Peasants brought up by the authorities to make statements will say anything required, whether from fear or from interested motives. There are traditional methods well known to the atrocity-mongers of the Balkans which are well calculated to deceive the unwary. I may allude here to the evidence of Alexander Petrof, of Prossetchen, contained in Enclosure 1 in Sophia despatch No. 133 of the 9th August. After much pressing I managed to prevail upon the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to produce this witness, whose whereabouts, it seemed, had been lost sight of. He repeated the evidence as previously reported in the most circumstantial manner, but as I had doubts, for certain reasons, as to his being the person he professed to be, I have not included his testimony in my report.

But the original evidence may for all that be genuine, though the real witness may have disappeared, and should serve as a warning against "faked photographs" and similar deceptions.

As regards the evidence supplied by the Deacon Josef and his companion, a mere boy, who corroborated everything the former said, its value depends upon the reliability of the informant. He states that he used to supply His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica with information from the interior (especially as regards the Pomak conversions). Mr Lamb would no doubt be able to vouch for the trustworthiness or otherwise of this witness. His report on what he saw in the region which had been overrun by the Greeks fully confirms what has been learnt from refugee sources.

Prince Radziwill's information seems to make it clear that during the late war the Bulgarians did not commit excesses against the Turks, at any rate in the western theatre. One would think, indeed, that they must have had quite enough on their hands without stirring up additional trouble with fresh enemies. The Prince told me, that as a possible basis for such stories he had heard that some months ago a punitive expedition had been sent against some Turkish villages, he thought somewhere north of Kukush, and that 100 Turks had been massacred in consequence of their having objected to be converted, and having killed two popes and a number of local Bulgarians. I learn, moreover, that a certain Père Michel, of whom I have heard it said that he is a pronounced Bulgarophobe, lately sent some accounts of Bulgarian excesses against Turks to the press, and that these, though the work of komitajis during the recent

war, have been published as fresh "Bulgarian atrocities." This same Père Michel, I may mention, is reported to me as being the French priest who has supplied certain information regarding the Kukush massacre, which accords with the Greek version of that event.

It may be that in certain other cases where accusations are now brought up against the Bulgarians of atrocities committed upon the Turks, these stories, if examined, would appear to be largely founded upon the barbarities perpetrated by the komitajis, and upon the persecution of the Turks in certain regions which undoubtedly occurred during and after the Turkish war.

Before concluding, I should like to say that though it may be possible to discover various errors of detail or garbled versions of events which actually took place, in the evidence which is submitted herewith, the one grand fact emerges that of the enormous number of refugees who are now inundating this country, which some authorities rate as high as 150,000, the vast majority have fled from their homes, in desperate haste, before the devastating progress of the Greek army.

Enclosure 2 in No. 283.

Enclosures in Vice-Consul Heard's Memorandum.

I.

(A.)—Evidence of Persons who Escaped from Kukush (Kilkish).

ANDON STOYANOF (Uniate, tradesman, stated that his own and thirty other Bulgarian Catholic families had taken refuge in the French convent, where they believed they would be safe. On the 21st June Greeks captured town after defeat of Bulgarians. Town had previously been shelled, three shells having struck convent. Latter was invaded by Greek cavalry, followed by infantry. As they entered he escaped into adjacent house of one Sakof, through back door. House overlooked part of convent courtyard. He saw French flag hauled down and mast broken. A general massacre then began. Bodies were mutilated (eyes gouged out, noses and arms cut off, &c.). In the courtyard he saw ten to fifteen young girls violated in turn by soldiers. Could not say what happened to orphans, but heard terrible shrieks from orphanage buildings. When atrocities began, he saw foreign sisters leave court and enter building, but did not know what happened to them after. Stated that he did not see officers taking part in excesses, but that they were with troops when they entered mission. He escaped by night, and following ravines, passed by Gramadna and Mutolovo in the morning, from whence villagers had not yet fled. Soon after, from a distance, he saw Greek cavalry arrive and surround above villages, whilst cutting down fugitives. Both villages were afterwards burned. Did not believe half the inhabitants of Mutolovo escaped.

He was the sole survivor of a family of eight persons.

2. Father Jean Chkitchef and Father Joseph Radanof, of the Lazarist mission and orphanage for boys and girls, stated that they watched battle of Kukush from neighbouring hill; (8,000 Bulgarians and three or four batteries against some 30,000 Greeks and 150 guns.) Fighting lasted two days, during which Greeks fired crops and burnt several villages. They fired into town over heads of Bulgarian artillery. Most of the inhabitants had fled to neighbouring villages. On the 4th July Bulgarians retired, and the fathers returned to mission with a number of other people, thinking they would be safe there under French flag. (There were three hoisted on buildings). After three shells had struck mission they fled. In the latter there were some 200 persons, including eight nuns (French, Austrian, &c.), forty-five female orphans and fifteen male, and one missionary. A certain number of the townsfolk had also remained in their houses. Witnesses proceeded to Demir Hissar viâ Peroi with Bulgarian troops. They saw all the Bulgarian villages round Kukush burning (about forty). Though Greeks allege that Bulgarians burnt Turkish villages, the Bulgarian force passed none on its line of retreat, and a number of Turks fled with them. They heard from other parties that Greeks had burnt Turkish village of Kurkutevo.

3. Anghel Yanef, Catholic priest of Kukush Monastery stated that when bombardment began, mission buildings being struck, he and some others fled and accompanied

retiring Bulgarian army. He believed some 600 persons remained behind in mission. On the road, from summit of Porcitza mountain he saw all the Bulgarian villages in the plain of Kukush blazing amongst which he mentioned the following: Yajolare, Salamanli, Ambarkeui, Krajakadar, Aitchak Kilssé, Seslovo, Grmadna, Krondirtzi, Khersovo, Gerbashel, Gavalyantzi, Dragomirtzi, Kretzovo, Kojamarlia, Begleria, Avret Hissar, Postolar, Hadji Ojalar, &c., also following Turkish villages, Armuchna Sarigol Khassanava, Kavakli, Karabunar. These latter may have been set on fire in course of action. He states that whilst some Turks were fleeing with Bulgarians, other were joining with Greeks in devastation.

He further stated that the son of Dimitri . . . . ? of Mutolovo, and his wife Maria Luzhi Bogorodichiua, a boy of about 12, whom he found near Djumaia Bala told him that he had escaped from the mission after the massacre. Child said that the whole ground between the orphanage Catholic monastery of St. George was strewn so thickly [? with corpses], that in running he had to "jump over them."

Witness stated further that it would be absurd to say Bulgars had massacred inmates of mission, which had been used as a hospital for the Bulgarian wounded in the Turkish war, under the care of the sisters.

Witness also stated that he knew Andon Stoyanof (paragraph 1), who came of a respectable Kukush family, and that a view of Orphanage courtyard may be obtained from Sakof's house.

(B.)—Evidence of Villagers from Kukush District.

4. Petr Christof of Dragomirtsi stated that on the 9th July Greek cavalry surrounded his and other villages. Whilst passing near village of Gavalyantzi in his flight he saw two Greek soldiers throw three or four woman trying to escape from the burning house of one Ilkof, back into the flames. He also saw one Tushé Gogof sabred. He states that the following villages in his neighbourhood were burnt

Mikuelovo, Dragomirtsi, Malovtzi, Kretzovo, Kazanovo, Begleri Kojamarlia, Jensko, Gavalyantzi, Aidarlia, Khersovo. (All Bulgarian).

5. Kolyo Mitrof of Gavalyantzi who had remained behind to collect some clothes &c., was too late to escape. Only some old people and children remained in the village. During massacre he lay hidden in a house. After Greeks had left he escaped, taking with him wounded child Vangnel Kolef, wounded with bullet and sabre cut in shoulder whom he found on the ground. None were spared and he saw mutilated corpses lying about. Village was burned. He saw following Bulgarian villages burning —

Aiderli, Gerbashel, Vrigiturtzi, Malovtzi, Kretzovo.

Seven families from his village remained behind at Kanjeli (Doiran district). Where a Greek emissary had spread the news that they would not be harmed. Was told afterwards that they were all massacred.

6. Motro Kolef, aged 14, of Gavalyantzi, visited in Clementine Hospital at Sophia, suffering from sabre cut in hand and showing bullet graze on side, stated that when Greek cavalry entered village he fled with mother and others. His mother fell with bullet in breast (died) and he was cut with sabre and feined death. He crawled away and while hid saw boy and old woman cut down. Greeks set fire to village in four places and left. He escaped in the night to Bulgarian lines.

Eight other persons had already been discharged from hospital including two. Wounds were mostly sabre cuts on hands received in protecting the head.

(C.)—Evidence of Villagers from Doiran District.

7. Mito Ilief, of Borislav, employed as guide by Greeks and eventually escaped. Stated that on Sunday, the 5th July, the inhabitants of seven villages had collected in his village. The Greeks (cavalry), on arrival, first collected arms from the Bulgars and gave them to Turks. Troops then began to pillage. The women were violated in turn all night. He saw two youths murdered. Greeks set fire to village before leaving, and Turks went on killing after their departure.

Petr Georghi, of Surlevo, stated that Greek cavalry, after occupying Borislav on the 7th [? 5th] July, proceeded to pillage and violate women. On the following da

they started massacring. Witness saw them shooting the people down. In this village some 3,000 fugitives from other villages had assembled. Stated that in this neighbourhood, to his knowledge, Greeks burnt Vlada, Pataros, Surlevo, Popovo, Brest, Durboli, Nikolitch, and Borislav. (All Bulgarian.)

8. Gotsé Ivanof, of Popovo (fifty Bulgarian houses, ten Turkish), stated that Greek cavalry first collected arms from Bulgarians and gave them to Turks. They then began to pillage and violate women. Witness, with assistance of Turkish friend, disguised himself as Turk and escaped detection. He hid his wife and sister-in-law in empty Turkish house, but both were discovered and outraged. Before escaping he saw bodies of Christo Vrangatchef and of young woman who had been raped, lying on ground.

9. Christo Zaknof, of Nikohtch, personally saw seven persons killed (of whom he gave names), including four women, by Greek cavalry and local Turks. Village was afterwards burned.

(D.)—*Evidence of Villagers from Gheyghell District.*

9A. Doichin Karamanof, who acted as guide for Bulgarian troops, on returning to village of Machukovo (forty houses) found ten or more bodies of persons of both sexes lying on ground. Did not see if any were inside houses, of which half were burnt. (13th July.)

10. Stoyan Pamper, Koutzo-Vlach schoolmaster of Vlach village of Oshani, stated that it was surrounded by Greek soldiers, who started shooting. He saw one person killed before he got away. (4th July.)

Georghi Yuvan, of same village, fled with a crowd of fugitives under rifle and artillery fire from Greeks.

Yuvan —— [?], of Loguntzi (Vlach), stated that when he got away Greek infantry had already begun to fire on his village. Vlach villages of Tushun, Leskovo, and Huma were also attacked.

(E.)—*Evidence of Maria Nakova and Daughter, of Strumnitza (Town).*

11. Stated that on the 7th July they fled on news of Doiran massacres brought by fugitives, amongst whom she saw two wounded children—one wounded on head and breast and one with amputated arm and cut in throat. Man who carried latter said his wife had been killed. Other refugees told them afterwards that sixty Bulgarian wounded soldiers, left in charge of Greek Bishop of Strumnitza, had been murdered. During their flight they saw Kosturno in flames.

(F.)—*Evidence of Ilié Mikho (Koutzo-Vlach), of Petritch (Town).*

12. Stated that from his house he witnessed massacre of Vlach family of Dimitr Zikof by cavalry and Antartes. Three soldiers broke into his yard and asked his aged mother where her son was, and on her saying she did not know she received a sword thrust in the stomach. On seeing this from an upper window he rushed down into the cellar. Afterwards he heard cries of his daughter of 14 being murdered. Later he escaped into garden and lay hid until night, when he fled northwards. Outside Livurovo he saw many bodies, including that of a naked girl with four bayonet wounds, showing signs of violation. In Sveti Vratch River he saw bodies of four small children. He believed all Vlachs in Strumnitza who had not escaped had been massacred.

(He stated that he was a marked man, owing to his having refused some time previously to respond to the Greek Bishop of Melnik's proposals that he should turn "Greconane.")

(G.)—*Evidence of Villagers from Serres District.*

13. Dimitri Todorof (Koutzo-Vlach), of Bairakli Djumaia (800 Patriarchist houses, 250 Bulgarian houses, and 100 Vlach houses), stated that when Greek troops entered village he saw his uncle and cousin, Mito Anuda, killed—latter with sabre. He ran out to save his child in the road, but when three Greek soldiers made for him he left the child and fled.

14. Toma Tahkof, of Bairakli Djumaia, stated that Bulgarian troops evacuated village three days before Greeks arrived. Patriarchists then ill-treated them. After

arrival of Greeks three cavalrymen began to break into his house, and his wife told him to hide in loft. Whilst hidden he witnessed violation of his wife, and his 2-year-old child was thrown out of window. He heard soldiers tell his wife that if she did not reveal his hiding place she and her remaining three children would be killed. He stole down back stairs to stable and thence escaped, three shots being fired after him.

15. Konstantin Lazarof (priest), of Dolno Ravno, stated that a fight was in progress 8 kilom. from village. Villagers fled, intending to return. Patriarchist Bulgarians remained behind. One Sotir Simof, who stayed with latter, said that they prepared food for Greeks and afterwards killed such Exarchists as remained. Simof escaped with bullet in the arm. Witness stated that Turks joined in with Greeks. Saw village Zarevo burning.

16. Todor Nikolof stated that he fled about the 21st July from village Doth. The old people remained in village. Saw villages of Orekhovetz and Banitza burning.

17. Asen Hadji Dimof, of Frashtana (Frashtan.?), stated that when Greek cavalry arrived on July 15 he hid in cellar, whence he heard shrieks of people being massacred. After ravaging village, Greeks killed all whom they could find in the fields. When he emerged from his hiding-place he saw through window a man, woman, and child lying dead in next house. Child had leg cut off at the hip. He also saw bodies of an aged couple in village, the man with parts thrust into mouth. After leaving village he found body of a young woman ripped right down and across. After escaping from village he passed following burning Bulgarian villages:—Gorno Brodi, Zurnevo, Kalimantzi, and others, of which he did not know names.

18. Georghi Radef (mayor) and Petr Mishof, of Gorno Brodi, stated that on the 15th July a fight was in progress between Greek and Bulgarian troops, and shells began falling in village. Inhabitants fled, except those too ill or weak to flee. Of the latter, they stated some 225 are missing, and it is feared they are dead. From a distance on the hills they saw village being burned, including church, in which were some twenty-five of the old and sick.

They further stated that when villagers of Gorna Frashtana (200 houses), Dolna Frashtana (200 houses), Mertakova (200 houses), and Metochi (80 houses), were fleeing to the mountains they were attacked by settlement of nomad Grecomane Vlachs, previously armed and prepared by Greeks, who drove them back into the plain, where the Greeks fell upon them and, it is feared, massacred them all, as no survivors have been heard of.

They had seen the following villages (Bulgarian) burning:—Dokha (280 houses), Orekhovetz (300 houses), Banitza (250 houses), and Kirtchevo (300 houses).

(H.)—*Evidence of two Dibrioto Bulgarians who Escaped from Serres (Town).*

19. Strati Georghef on the 27th June (July 10) was at Kavakli, half hour from Serres, when a band of Antartes took him to the town, together with a number of other Bulgarians, saying that Greek archbishop wanted him. He was shut up in metropolitan school building, together with some 120 other Bulgarians in the basement, where the archbishop came and saw them. Next morning they were taken up in batches to the upper rooms and butchered with knives, yataghans, &c. He was cut over the head and feigned death. He escaped, with eight other survivors, in the evening, when the building was set on fire. Witness still had his head bandaged when interviewed.

Doxim Smilef told much the same story. He says the archbishop told them the evening before, "Do not fear, to-morrow you will be set free." He was also cut down in one of the upper rooms, and lay under two other bodies until evening, when he heard a great sound of fighting, and escaped whilst the town was being retaken by the Bulgarians.

(I.)—*Constantin Christof (Priest), of Hadji Beylik, District of Demir Hissar.*

20. Stated that he fled from village on the 12th July, four days before arrival of Greek cavalry in village. Being told by Bulgarian force defending bridge that inhabitants were being massacred, he did not return. He was informed later by mayor of village that all who failed to escape had been killed. Only thirteen families were known to be in safety. Before troops arrived, Grecomane villagers of Ravna had told

inhabitants of Hadji Beyluk to remain, as they would not be molested. He believed nearly all Bulgarian villages of district had been devastated.

(*Note.*—Headquarters of King Constantine were reported to be here in Salonica; telegram 62 of the 14th July.)

(J.)—*Evidence of Dimitr Todorof, of Zarevo District of Lagadina (Langhaza).*

21. Stated that his village was on line of demarcation. On the 1st July Greeks distant about 1 kilog. began to bombard the village (though no fighting was going on). He saw a priest killed by shrapnel. When villagers fled fire was turned on them. He saw a shell strike a house and kill inmates. Afterwards Bulgarians advanced, driving back Greeks. Next day, Bulgarians having passed on, fire was opened from another quarter by Greeks and cavalry entered and started killing. The men were massacred and twenty-three women and girls taken apart and violated. Latter occurrences were witnessed by girl of 13 who had hid in bushes and afterwards related to refugees at Demir Hissar that they were all killed in the evening and that village was burned on the following day. An aged teacher who had hid in a cellar till the 3rd July also stated to him that when he left village was entirely destroyed.

(K.)—*Evidence of Pop Ephtimii (Priest), of Berovo, District of Malesh.*

22. Stated that when Greeks arrived at neighbouring village of Rusinovo (14th July, N.S.?), villagers from Berovo fled under artillery fire from direction of Rusinovo, which was in flames. Meanwhile, Antartes were advancing from the east.

On the road to Pehtchevo he saw following villages burning: Vladimirovo, Smoimorovo, Chiftlik, Umnona, Robovo, Machovo, Vudmartsi, Mitrochinsi.

(L.)—*Evidence of Villagers from Melnik District.*

23. Atanas Christof stated that about the 20th July Greek cavalry arrived at his village, where only men remained, women having fled. They told villagers not to fear as they would not be harmed and asked them to call back their women and children, which they did. After collecting arms in village they began to rob the men of their money, &c., and the women of their ornaments. They then took eight notables and butchered them outside village. The other inhabitants were shut into their houses. Witness, a schoolboy of about 17, then managed to escape and does not know what happened afterwards.

24. Todor Bojinof, of Devrene, stated that about the 14th July some Greek cavalrymen arrived and told inhabitants to remain. They were followed by more, who started pillaging. Meanwhile, fugitives from other villages arrived with reports of Greek massacres elsewhere. Inhabitants took to flight, but some 130 were surrounded and have not since been heard of.

II.

(M.)—*Narrative of the Exarchist Deacon Josef and his Companion, Stoyan Atanasof.*

25. The Deacon Josef stated that having got into trouble with Greek authorities at Salonica, he escaped with the assistance of His Majesty's consul-general and another consul, and obtained from the Bulgarian commandant a pass in which he and his companion were described as French subjects named respectively Charles and Aubé. These passes he showed to me. Thus provided, with hair and beard clipped short, he later on presented himself to the Greek Archbishop of Serres and gained the favour of the latter by his virulent abuse of the Bulgarians. The Archbishop then asked if they were not in reality French correspondents come to "write up" the situation. He pretended that this was the case and asked for a letter which would permit them to move freely in the area occupied by the Greek armies. This the Archbishop granted them, together with an escort of two Antartes from Vesnik, the idea being that they should describe Bulgarian atrocities, &c., on the spot.

On the 4th July they started for Kukush and on arrival found Colonel Nikola

Papadopoulos with 100 soldiers, to whom they showed letter. They saw there a number of mutilated bodies lying in the streets, some of them still breathing (perhaps, 150 to 200). Outside the orphanage they saw twelve heads of small children with eyes put out. The orphanage building was destroyed, but through the window of a room still intact they caught sight of two of the sisters "pale as ghosts." Josef asked a man where the others were and he replied that they were dead, but Colonel Papadopoulos insisted that they were at Salonica. He also told him that all these people had been killed by the Bulgarians.

Thence they proceeded to Doiran (5th July), where they saw some 400 bodies of men, women and children, many being mutilated. There was a terrible smell, perhaps from bodies burnt in the houses. Only Turkish houses were intact.

At Pataros they found some Greek soldiers still killing people with bayonets, axes, &c., and women were running away screaming. They ceased their work on their approach. They saw some sixty bodies here.

On proceeding to Akinjali on railway, where it seemed that large numbers of Bulgarian villagers had collected, probably in hopes of finding a train which never passed, he found some 300 corpses, mutilated, beheaded, &c. A couple of soldiers were still there.

On arriving at Poroi they found only some thirty corpses, as remainder had apparently fled to woods. Some were still breathing. They observed a disembowelled woman weeping over her dead child and calling down curses on Russia. Sounds of a battle were heard in the distance.

Between Lower and Upper Poroi they noticed several fœtuses prematurely dropped by pregnant women in their flight.

They spent the night of the 9th July at Prosenik, where the Antartes were still killing people with knives and axes. Up till midnight the shrieks were terrible.

Always accompanied by the two Antartes they started at 4 A.M. for Barakh Djumaia. The houses of Patriarchists were not burnt. One of the latter pointing to burnt Bulgarian houses said: "We have burnt those houses so that the root of the accursed Bulgarian race may not remain."

On arriving at Serres on the 8th July they found Greeks masters of the town after withdrawal of Bulgars owing to panic, with Archbishop at their head. They spent the 9th and 10th July with Zlatko, the Austrian consular agent, whom Josef described as a "Grecomane" and fanatical Bulgarophobe. He also stated that Zlatko called in the mob to massacre the three Bulgar soldiers left to him as guard. The same fate befell the guard left before the Metropolitan's house.

Antartes from all the Greek villages were swarming into Serres. They seized the heights north of town and Metropolitan sent word to Greek force at Nigrita to come at once as Serres was in hands of Greeks. On the 11th July the Bulgars returned, and after storming heights drove Greeks in panic back into town. The Turks, who were well armed, were compelled to join in defence. The Bulgarians began to bombard town and Antartes replied with rifle fire. The Greek population who were meanwhile engaged in killing and mutilating a number of Bulgars in the town, then began to pour out of town and sought refuge in the woods, &c. Antartes, however, resisted for some time longer, and street fighting went on with firing from windows, &c. Before they left, about sunset, they had set fire to the Metropolitan buildings (*cf.* II 19) Oriental (?) Bank, cinematograph, and many houses in town. The Metropolitan was said to have hid in old subterranean church.

At 7 P.M. guns of Nigrita column were heard and Bulgarians began to retire gradually along the road to Gorno Brodi. They accompanied them to the latter village, and then went back to Duth which was burning. They saw Greek soldiers and Antartes tying old man to tree preparatory to burning him.

Thence they proceeded to Frashtani (250 houses). Inhabitants had declared themselves Patriarchists, but too late to save themselves. Men had been separated from women and children and butchered before each other's eyes.

Later, passed Orakhovetz, burnt, and only saw corpses of three old women, and on the 14th July Lakos, half burnt, but with no bodies visible. They then went on to Bantza, where some corpses were seen and on the 15th July they arrived at Gorno Brodi whence inhabitants had not fled on advice from Bulgarian authorities, though Greeks were advancing. Later, when at Dolna Brodi, they heard Gorno Brodi being attacked and villagers began to fly.

Arriving at Starshishté they found people in panic, and eventually, on the 19th July they made their way to Nevrokop which was still in hands of Bulgarians, and thence travelled in safety to Sophia.

III.

(N.)—*Information supplied by Prince Radziwill as to Behaviour of Greek and Bulgarian Troops in the Field.*

26. Prince Radziwill, who has fought with the Bulgarian VIth Division against the Greeks since the beginning of the war, has kindly supplied me with the following information:—

The Bulgarian troops, he said, had not been guilty of any excesses against the peaceful population in the theatre in which he had been engaged. Indeed, he was perfectly amazed, on arriving at Sophia, to hear that the Greeks were bringing against them all kinds of charges of barbarity. I asked him if the Turks had not been ill treated in any way, and he said that he had heard of nothing of the kind during the recent war, one very good reason being that there were some 50,000 Turks from Bulgaria serving in the ranks of the Bulgarian army. He stated that so far from there having been any sort of massacre at Doiran, the inhabitants of that town, who are almost exclusively Bulgarian, had been of great assistance to them, for instance, the women had baked bread for the troops during three days, and they were on the best of terms with the population.

As regards the excesses of the Greeks, he said that there was no doubt that they had devastated all the regions inhabited by Bulgarians, and that their line of advance was marked by blazing villages. Being always on the retreat he had not had much opportunity of witnessing their performances, but he told me that at Dorian, whence he had had to fight his way at the last moment, he saw the Greek cavalry sabring every living thing they met in the streets. At the battle of Kozhuderé he watched through powerful glasses the Greek soldiers set fire to the village of Furka in four places. As figures ran out they dropped, though from whence they were shot he could not see. One tiny figure, apparently that of a small child, he saw transfixed by a Greek soldier, who flung it backwards over his head on the end of his bayonet. At Pehtchevo he saw eight bodies of men and women in the streets when the Bulgarians passed back through that town.

As for the komitajis he said they were useless for fighting and that the army disliked them, but that they were encouraged by certain political circles in Sophia. Before the battle of Doiran they melted away and he saw them no more. The Greek Antartes, however, were very troublesome in cutting off stragglers, &c., and on one occasion they fired on the staff in the night.

The Bulgarian soldiers, he said, judging from his own experience in both wars, do not mutilate women, nor do they mutilate the dead, even under extreme provocation, but the Macedonian levies were of a different temperament.

He admitted that both sides, on occasion, killed wounded and prisoners, and used dum-dum bullets. Still, he said, most of the Servian prisoners he had seen had been very well treated.

[37840] No. 289.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 16.)

(No. 119.)

Sir, *Marienbad, August* 12, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday evening's edition of the "Neue Freie Presse" contains an article entitled "Differences of opinion between Austria-Hungary and Germany with regard to the Peace," in which great stress is laid on the importance of the telegrams recently exchanged between the German Emperor and the King of Roumania.

The article points out that the Emperor William has endorsed the opinion expressed by King Carol that the Peace of Bucharest is permanent, and in so doing has declared before all Europe that the German Empire is no longer in agreement with Austria-Hungary on an important point of the latter's Near Eastern policy. The difference of opinion between Austria-Hungary and Germany is further proved by the fact that while Austria-Hungary, in agreement with Russia, desires a revision of the Peace of Bucharest in the sense of the restitution of Cavalla to Bulgaria, the German Emperor, on the very day of the signature of the treaty, has appointed King Constantine a field-marshal, and thereby shown that all his sympathies are on the side of Greece.

German policy, continues the "Neue Freie Presse," shows clearly that it has laid the utmost importance on supporting Roumania in the recent crisis, and has even gone so far in this direction as to reach a point at which the two allies must part company, if only for a time.

The article concludes by drawing attention to the fact that King Carol's telegrams show that he seeks the centre of gravity of the Triple Alliance not in Vienna but in Berlin. For the last ten months Austria-Hungary has been lead by considerations of prestige, but it is doubtful, says the "Neue Freie Presse," whether this recent exchange of telegrams will add to her prestige and whether it is an advantage for Austria-Hungary that Germany should make a declaration, the point of which is directed against the eastern policy of the Dual Monarchy, or that King Carol should stretch out a hand towards Berlin, thereby showing that he is in agreement with the policy of Germany but not with that of Austria-Hungary.

The "Neue Freie Presse" publishes a further article this morning in the same strain, adding that it is not worth while troubling the relations between Austria-Hungary and Germany in order to deprive Servia of Ishtib and Kotchana, and that the revision of the Treaty of Bucharest is in no way a vital interest of the Dual Monarchy.

I have, &c.

FAIRFAX CARTWRIGHT.

[37671] No. 290.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 120.)

Sir, *Vienna, August* 13, 1913.

A STATEMENT, which is held to reproduce to a considerable extent the views now held by the Austrian Foreign Office with regard to a revision of the Treaty of Bucharest, appears in the "Wiener Tageblatt" of to-day. The last paragraph is not very clear, but is taken to imply that Austria renounces her idea of a revision; it also, however, gives in some quarters an impression that she may intend to refuse her recognition of the arrangements made by that treaty.

The following is a translation of the statement in question:—

"Press reports from France announce that the French Government have succeeded in dissuading Russia from using her right (as a signatory of the Berlin Treaty) of re-examination in the question of Cavalla, and have stated that they will take part in a conference or conversation, but not with the object of modifying the Treaty of Bucharest. After a very violent campaign in the Russian and French journals, the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh has adopted the standpoint of France, and, it is believed will no longer insist on the cession of Cavalla and the Struma-Mesta valley to Bulgaria.

"The Austro-Hungarian Government therefore stand alone in Europe in their desire to re-examine the delimitation of Bulgaria in central Macedonia, in order to prevent, at least to some degree, the splitting up of the Bulgarian population of those parts. Nevertheless, the Government are believed to hold to their decision to make use of their right of examination, though it is clear that a revision without raising the question of force, but on the basis of the right accruing from the Berlin Treaty, could only be successful through a joint determination of all the Powers. As such an eventuality is no longer to be expected, Austria-Hungary will, it is thought, renounce her right (by the Berlin Treaty) of ratifying the arrangements made at Bucharest if she cannot proceed with her proposal to re-examine the boundaries of central Macedonia."

I have, &c.

(For the Ambassador),

A. AKERS-DOUGLAS.

[37841] No. 291

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 16.)

(No. 121.)

Sir, *Vienna, August* 14, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that a deputation from Adrianople, engaged on a tour through the capitals of Europe, in order to plead with the various Governments in

favour of the retention of Adrianople by Turkey, is at present in Vienna, and was received yesterday afternoon at the Foreign Office by Baron Macchio, Director-General, on behalf of Count Berchtold.

The deputation consists of four members: Mehmed Faik (Mahommedan), deputy for Adrianople, Vasili Orphan (Greek), Deputy J. Barishac (Spanish Jew), editor of the newspaper "La Voz de la Verdad," and Garabet Hampartzounian (Armenian), professor at the Turkish gymnasium in Adrianople.

These gentlemen handed to Baron Macchio a memorandum declaring that during the 600 years of Turkish rule their races and creeds had enjoyed complete liberty. Under the few months of Bulgarian rule their country had been devastated, their fellow-countrymen massacred, their women violated, and their children butchered. There was scarcely an inhabitant left in Thrace; the very rivers were poisoned by the decaying corpses.

The memorandum pointed out that of a total population of 1,229,572 only 189,000 are Bulgars, and of these latter some 40,000, of Greek origin, have been forcibly enrolled on the list of the Exarchate. The document concludes with an appeal to be left under Ottoman Rule, and expresses the conviction that Europe will not tolerate the sacrifice of a million peaceful inhabitants to Bulgarian vengeance.

The "Fremdenblatt" reports that Baron Macchio accorded the deputation a friendly reception, and promised to communicate their memorandum to Count Berchtold.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
A. AKERS-DOUGLAS.

[37886] No. 292.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 407.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 15, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 401 of 14th August and my telegram No. 403 of 13th August.

The Turks reason as follows: "In defiance of Europe we have advanced to the Maritza, and Europe has shown itself ready to make concessions to induce us to retire. If we advance further, greater concessions may be obtained; at any rate, there is no harm in trying, as the Powers appear unable to agree to expel us by force."

I therefore very strongly deprecate making any mention of Thrace, as suggested by Russian Ambassador, as this would, in Turkish eyes, make it appear that Europe has agreed to confirm previous advance beyond Enos-Midia line, and I suggest that any further representations that may be made should have for their object respect of the Treaty of London.

The existing Committee Government's sole interest in retaking Adrianople, &c., is to enhance the Committee's prestige and strengthen its hold of power, and they will stop only when they are convinced that further advance will injure their position. The Committee's record of the past five years shows that to achieve this end they are ready to risk wrecking what remains of the Empire, nor would they hesitate to embroil Europe in a general war.

I venture to urge very seriously that with such people nothing can be achieved by holding out hopes of concessions (especially in financial matters, which will merely strengthen the Committee's position), but that on the contrary, if the Powers cannot agree on employment of forcible measures, pressure of some kind, *e.g.*, rigorously withholding all financial assistance or by threatening Turkey with loss of Tenedos or Imbros, is the only means of making them pause. The Russian Ambassador concurs generally in these views, and is telegraphing in similar sense to St. Petersburgh.

We ourselves might inform Hakki Pasha, whose presence in London is considered by the Committee to be one of their strongest cards, that all conversations whatever with him respecting monopolies, octroi, &c., will be dropped till the Balkan situation is definitely liquidated.

Intervention will not have the same force as before 29th July, but its effect would still be considerable.

(Sent to St. Petersburgh.)

[37798] No. 293.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 409.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 15, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 406 of 14th August.

I hear that Greek officer went to South and made some proposal to Ottoman commander to the effect that Turkish troops should protect population in that neighbourhood. Officer's name is said to be Paidos. I cannot learn whether his action was authorised from Athens.

(Sent to Athens.)

[37963] No. 294.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 412.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 16, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 401 of 14th August and my telegram No. 407 of 15th August.

French Ambassador is also decidedly opposed to collective or identic representations unless the Powers are prepared to enforce their will, as he believes that such a *démarche* would be fruitless. He is also opposed (my telegram No. 398 of 9th August) to suggested endeavour to influence Turkey by offer of financial assistance in shape of extra customs dues, and considers that, in putting forward suggestion, Germany has in view additional security which would result for Bagdad Railway guarantees.

[37976] No. 295.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 16, 1913.*

PREFERENTIAL treatment of Greek goods in Crete.

Your telegram No. 305 of 9th August to Paris.

I have only just received reply of German Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that he agrees that protest is not too late and that fresh instructions have been sent to German Minister at Athens to join with representatives of the other Powers in making necessary representations to Greek Government.

[38400] No. 296.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan

(No. 597.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 16, 1913.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has informed me that Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs told your French colleague that he was very desirous of avoiding active measures against Turkey to secure evacuation of Adrianople. His Excellency proposed that Great Britain, France, and Russia should at once openly declare that till evacuation takes place all financial aid will be refused to Turkey.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs agreed, but pointed out that such action by one group of Powers only would not be effective.

Russian Ambassador also said that Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs had since also approached Germany, who seemed disposed to agree to financial pressure, and that he was trying to get countries interested in Tobacco Régie to stop further advances, and was thinking of a declaration by all the Powers that they would discourage advances till Adrianople difficulty was overcome.

I said that there was not, nor was there likely to be, any disposition to lend money to Turkey. I could not control financiers here, but would join in any declaration to which other Powers agreed, as I thought that the financial lever was the one most likely to be effective.

[37964] No. 297.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 413.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 17, 1913.*

RUSSIAN admiral, with "Kagul" and "Rostislav," left last night.

It is hoped that this will make Turks pause.

[37965] No. 298.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 414.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 17, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 406 of 14th August.

News has been received here that Turkish troops are now 40 kilom. south-west of Demotika, advancing towards Gumuljina.

Third Army Corps at Kirk Kilisse has orders to be ready to move.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[37972] No. 299.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Vienna, August 17, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 243 of 9th August: Preferential treatment of Greek goods in Crete.

Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that Austrian Minister at Athens has been already authorised to express to his British colleague his entire readiness to take part in desired protest.

[37969] No. 300.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 17, 1913.*

AUSTRIAN and Italian Ministers made representations to Greek Government with regard to arming of the population of Northern Epirus as being likely to lead to trouble.

They appear to contemplate possibility of armed intervention in the event of resistance to the cession of Koritsa.

[37971] No. 301.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 346.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, August 17, 1913.*

IN a circular note to legations of the Great Powers yesterday, Bulgarian Government state as follows:—

Ottoman forces are already 70 kilom. west of Maritza, and are moving on Kirjali and Gumuljina. Ottoman Government allege necessity of protecting inhabitants of these territories from Bulgarian excesses when they are evacuated by Greeks. To meet this pretext, Bulgarian Government invite military attachés to accompany Bulgarian reoccupation. Bulgaria is defenceless owing to demobilisation pursuant to Treaty of Bucharest, and appeals to the Powers to secure observance of Treaty of London.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[38054] No. 302.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 707.)
Sir, *Constantinople, August 8, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 395 of yesterday's date I have the honour to report that a meeting of the representatives of the six Powers was held at the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in the course of the afternoon to discuss the wording of the identic communication to be made to the Sublime Porte on the subject of the Turkish action in reoccupying the districts beyond the Enos–Midia line as far as the Maritza, and including the town of Adrianople, ceded by her to the Balkan allies under the Treaty of London.

On comparing our instructions it was found they were not quite identic. They were in agreement that the communication should be founded on the decision of the meeting of the Ambassadors in London on the 24th ultimo, and those of the French Minister and myself went no further. The Russian and Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors' instructions contemplated the addition of a phrase to the effect that, in the event of Turkey's persisting in violation of the treaty, the promise of the Powers' financial support would be withdrawn, while the German Ambassador was empowered to make use of this consideration in conversation only.

The Italian Ambassador said nothing as to his instructions. It was agreed, therefore, that the identic communication should be restricted to the London decision, each representative using in conversation afterwards such arguments as seemed to him most suitable to support the *démarche*. I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the identic communication as agreed on.

No one at the meeting believed that the *démarche* would elicit from the Porte any sign of willingness to evacuate Adrianople, and the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador loudly expressed his opinion that, as the Turks believed that the Powers would never agree to use coercion to effect the evacuation of Adrianople, we were courting a blank refusal and were about to make ourselves ridiculous. The Russian Ambassador was obviously very relieved that any *démarche* at all was to be made. It was, he said, only a preliminary step and real identic action would follow. The German Ambassador's view was that something could be done in the way of a "transaction" on the lines which, as Signor Garroni informed us, had just been laid before the Powers by the Italian Government, namely, those of which Baron Wangenheim himself is the author.

This morning the identic communication was read by each of the representatives to the Grand Vizier, who said that as soon as he had been able to consult the Council of Ministers he would communicate the reply of the Porte to us.

The Russian Ambassador thought that the communication had made some effect on the Grand Vizier, and believes that the Porte's reply will have a door open for negotiation. This may very possibly be the case, but, if so, it will not be on account of any impression which M. de Giers has succeeded in producing on Prince Said Halim, who is a mere figurehead, and has no influence whatever with the real governing circles. Baron Wangenheim, however, is using every effort to induce the Turks not to push matters to a crisis, and, as he has very considerable influence with the Committee, it is by no means impossible that he will succeed in getting a conciliatory answer returned to us.

His motives from a local point of view are not far to seek. He realises that public opinion in Russia may force the Russian Government to take coercive action, single-handed if necessary, against Turkey, with the result that Russian prestige here, which is at present at a very low ebb, will be considerably enhanced, while that of Germany will suffer correspondingly.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 302.

Note communicated to the Turkish Government by the Representatives of the Great Powers.

D'ORDRE de mon Gouvernement, je suis chargé de rappeler dans les termes les plus catégoriques le Gouvernement Impérial au respect du maintien des principes posés par le Traité de Londres et notamment de la disposition relative à la ligne Enos-Midia.

Je suis en même temps autorisé à déclarer à votre Altesse que, dans la délimitation de la frontière, les Puissances seraient disposées à prendre en considération les conditions que le Gouvernement Impérial peut estimer indispensables pour la sécurité de cette frontière.

[37353] No. 303.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 708.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 7, 1913.*

THE "Tanin" of the 3rd instant publishes an account of an interview with a "Cabinet Minister" (presumably Talaat Bey) in which the official view of the recent excesses committed by the Ottoman troops and Bashi-bazouks in the district to the north of Rodosto is presented for public consumption.

We are blandly assured of the humane magnanimity of the Turkish soldier, so different from the brutal Bulgar, of the anxiety of the Government to get at the truth, of its readiness to accept representatives of the Œcumenical and Armenian Patriarchates on the Commission of Enquiry. The Commission has already got to work and has visited two or three villages in the immediate neighbourhood of Rodosto, but with almost negative results. A single Greek has been "lost" at Koum Bazly, while three, it is confessed, were killed in the entire Kaza of Rodosto, and four in that of Stairobol, and some cattle and other property has been stolen. The Commission unfortunately could not go straight to Malgara—where the worst excesses were committed—because there were no motor-cars available for their use.

Ministerial statements of this kind are presumably meant for consumption in the provinces, but no one with any real acquaintance of Turkish methods either under the old or the new régime can fail to appreciate them at their proper value.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING

[37354] No. 304.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 709.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 7, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's vice-consul at the Dardanelles reporting on the arrival of refugees at Lampsaki.

The numbers given by Mr. Palmer constitute fair presumptive evidence that the massacres have been on a very considerable scale, if not, indeed, equal to that alleged by the Œcumenical Patriarch, which, it is to be hoped, were, as usual in this country, much exaggerated.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 304.

Vice-Consul Palmer to Mr. Marling.

(Extract.) *Dardanelles, August 1, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that over 500 Greek Rayah refugees have arrived at Lampsaki.

They were not allowed to go down to Gallipoli, but were embarked on the ferry-boat at Bulair and transferred direct to Lampsaki, where they have been placed in two depôts and are being supplied with bread by the Government.

These unfortunates appear to be the sole survivors of Keshan, Malgara, and the surrounding villages, and consist almost entirely of women, children, and old men. I hear there are a few Bulgarians among them.

Enquiries at the Greek community here elicit the answer that it is the Kurds and Arabs who are responsible for these fresh massacres, and that a complaint will be made to the Patriarchate.

[38055] No. 305.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 712.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 12, 1913.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram No. 337 of the 8th August, I spoke again yesterday to the Grand Vizier on the subject of the excesses committed by the Turkish troops, bashi-bazouks, and refugees on the Christians of Rodosto and its hinterland, and I read to him a series of extracts taken from the reports in the possession of the embassy. I said that the news of these atrocities committed on Turkish subjects had produced a most painful impression on His Majesty's Government, on whose ears the Turkish claim to retake possession of the districts up to the line of the Maritza would sound very false. His Highness replied that he deeply regretted what had occurred, that these incidents had been grossly exaggerated, and could not be compared for a moment with the enormities committed by the Bulgarians. I said that my information generally corroborated the news which had reached the Armenian and Œcumenical Patriarchs, and though in some cases the figures given by these ecclesiastical authorities seemed difficult to prove, I was quite convinced that the accounts I had forwarded to you were in the main accurate. I knew that Tewfik Pasha had been instructed to explain them away, but his explanations did not bear a moment's examination. I had not much faith in the Commission of Enquiry that had been sent to Rodosto. The Minister of the Interior had been himself to Rodosto, and as a result of his visit a certain Hadji Sherif had been brought to Constantinople with one or two accomplices, and I had been informed to death nearly three weeks ago, but I had not seen that the sentence had been carried out. It would have produced some confidence in the Government's professions of impartial investigation and punishment if this ruffian had received his merits with the promptness which had been shown on other occasions. Prince Said admitted that the man had not been executed, but asserted that the sentence would certainly be carried out.

Reverting to the allegations of Bulgarian atrocities, I said that I had no brief to defend that nation, and it was possible that they had been guilty of atrocities. My reports, however, never contained any mention whatever of wanton cruelty or destruction of property on their part during their withdrawal behind the Ænos-Midia line, and I was quite convinced that the charge of exaggeration was more applicable to the Turkish stories of Bulgarian misdeeds than to the reports of the incidents at Rodosto, &c. This his Highness indignantly repudiated, and the numerous addresses he received from Mussulmans and Christian notables and priests from all parts of Thrace expressing joy at the return of the Turks were proof enough of the horrors of Bulgarian rule. I replied that, knowing how such addresses were procured, I attached little value to that kind of evidence, but I could assure him that His Majesty's Government were concerned at excesses by whomsoever committed, and had made representations at Sophia.

The Commission sent to Rodosto has returned, and has presented a report to the Ministry of the Interior. I have of course had no opportunity of seeing it, but the enclosed extract from the "Osmanische Lloyd" of to-day gives some account of

the results achieved.* The report admits that twenty-three Armenians and two Greeks were killed at Malgara and twenty Armenians wounded, while 130 houses and 300 shops were burnt. The cause of the fires at this place is significantly left to the imagination.

Kalivia is totally destroyed, and over 200 houses have been burned in eleven other Christian villages. Five Mussulmans, among them a hodja and an imam, have been condemned to terms of imprisonment varying from five to fifteen years for being concerned in the murder of two Armenians, and one by default to death. The prospect that this latter sentence will ever be carried out is remote.

The report, as reproduced by the German local paper, is characteristically Turkish. Some of the facts were too notorious to be denied even by a Turkish Government Commission, and are therefore admitted, but no attempt is made to fix the responsibility for the burning of thirteen prosperous villages, and for the murder of twenty-five Christians no one is executed. It is to be noted that all the murders admitted by the Commission took place at Malgara, and the report says nothing of any killing elsewhere. It is scarcely to be supposed, however, that the inhabitants of Kalivia, where only two houses out of 282 remain standing, and of the eleven other villages escaped scot free. The record, admitted by the Commission, of 789 houses and 130 shops destroyed seems to dispose of the suggestion of exaggeration made by the Grand Vizier, and the sum of £ T. 5,000 which Tewfik Pasha has informed you is to be devoted to the relief of victims is obviously inadequate.

In this connection it is perhaps worth while reporting that the German Ambassador sent a naval officer attached to his embassy and a secretary to report on the alleged state of affairs in Thrace, and especially on the alleged misdeeds of the Bulgarians. As they travelled under the auspices of the Turkish military authorities they naturally saw and heard only what it was convenient to the Turks that they should learn, and their report, which is highly favourable to the Turks and proportionately condemnatory of the Bulgarians, would not, in the opinion of anyone at all conversant with Turkish methods, be worth the paper it is written on.

(Continued...)

Baron Wangenheim has even hinted to me that these gentlemen were expected to report in that sense.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

[38056] No. 306.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 713.)

Constantinople, August 13, 1913

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further report on the situation at Malgara (see my despatch No. 703 of the 5th instant). This report was forwarded by the Armenian Patriarch.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 306.

Report on the Situation at Malgara communicated by Armenian Patriarch.

" UNE heure après le départ de la délégation spéciale, les arrestations commencèrent. Tous les notables de notre localité ont été appréhendés et incarcérés en un endroit obscur, humide et absolument impropre au point de vue hygiénique.

Étant arrivé ici à une heure tardive, je n'ai pu faire des démarches le même jour. Le lendemain, me rendant chez le Gouverneur, je lui demandai des explications. Mais il me fit des réponses évasives qui semblaient signifier que l'affaire était hors de sa compétence.

2. L'autorité militaire a institué une commission d'enquête qui a pour mission d'interroger les personnes arrêtées et d'établir le degré de leur culpabilité. Cette

* Not printed.

commission est composée de Turcs en majeure partie et d'un Grec. La plupart de ses membres ont été choisis parmi les individus qui se sont enfuis d'ici lors de l'occupation bulgare et sont revenus avec l'armée ottomane. La commission n'entend que les dépositions de trois ou quatre témoins, qui imputent aux Arméniens des délits et des crimes que nos nationaux n'ont jamais pu commettre. Elle commet ainsi une foule d'abus.

J'apprends que les faits imputés aux Arméniens sont des assassinats et des crimes. Quelques personnes—en nombre très insignifiant—ont été relâchées.

3. Voici les noms des personnes détenues :—

Ardachès Effendi Ouroudian, Hadji Tomas Effendi Mikayélian, Assadour Effendi Jamgotchian, Garabet Effendi Choubarian, Agop Effendi Choubarian, Manouk Effendi Choubarian, Garabet Agha Tcholakian, Mouavine Garabet Effendi, Léon Effendi Tokatlian, Garabet Effendi Dombazian, Hadji Haroutioun Effendi (avocat), son fils Mihran Effendi, Agop Effendi Boyadjian, Manouk Effendi Hatchadourian, Garabet Effendi Adjémian, Ghazaros Effendi Mozyan, Onnig Karamaladjian, Alexan Moutafian, Bédik.

Bien que sept ou huit jours se soient écoulés depuis leur arrestation, on n'a pu encore en apprendre les motifs, qui sont ignorés par les détenus eux-mêmes.

4. De nombreux individus, agissant dans l'ombre, excitent l'opinion contre les Arméniens. Il va sans dire que ces individus, essentiellement nuisibles à la patrie ottomane, le sont encore davantage à l'élément arménien. Voici leurs noms :—

Mufti Foïzi Effendi, Cheikh Ali Effendi, Suleïman Boy (chef du secrétariat), Saïzadé Ali, Saïd Beyzadé Ali Bey, Osman Effendi (inspecteur du Fisc), Tchounène Ahmed Effendi, Attar Hassan, Hodja, Hadji Hassanoglilou Roufot et Mountaz Bey.

Malgré que Malgara—qui depuis plus de 100 ans n'avait pas encore connu les orages politiques—soit aujourd'hui réduite à moitié en un monceau de ruines, malgré ce spectacle désolant, il est des individus qui expriment publiquement des regrets que la vengeance et la barbarie n'aient pas poussé encore plus loin leur œuvre dévastatrice.

5. Nous vivons dans une atmosphère d'intrigues. Le caïmacan aime les intrigants et se plaît à les pourvoir de postes. La chamlie se tourne dans tous sens. A l'heure actuelle, pour faire arrêter un Arménien, il suffit de porter contre lui l'accusation la plus absurde.

6. Dans cette situation indescriptible et sans précédent, il est consolant de constater que seul le capitaine de gendarmerie a le souci de la légalité et fait, en un langage énergique, observer que les incarcérations préventives, sans que les détenus soient soumis à un interrogatoire, sont contraires à la loi.

7. Les soldats arméniens faits prisonniers lors de la chute d'Andrinople et munis de pièces attestant leur situation sont arrêtés comme déserteurs et emprisonnés.

8. Toutes ces exactions ont livré au désespoir la population, qui manifeste le désir d'émigrer. Si forte est cette tendance que tous les conseils et les exhortations semblent devoir être impuissants à la vaincre.

9. Sur l'ordre du maire, les crieurs invitent les éprouvés à se rendre sur le terrain de leurs maisons brûlées pour y faire des fouilles. Or, dès que quelqu'un s'y rend, il est aussitôt arrêté.

10. Tous les anciens fonctionnaires—même les plus vils—sont revenus. L'envoi de ces gens est la mesure la plus funeste qu'aurait pu prendre le Gouvernement.

Nous demandons le déplacement de ces personnes, qui ne sont pas des fonctionnaires, mais des indigènes décidés à réclamer aux Arméniens les objets et l'argent qui ont pu leur être enlevés.

Malgara, le 20 juillet (2 août), 1913.

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1. Tous les Turcs ont la menace à la bouche. C'est au point que les plus optimistes d'entre nous sont devenus pessimistes. Nous nous sommes bien adressés au caïmacan, mais il nous a renvoyés, en nous gratifiant, selon le vieil usage, de force promesses.

2. Tout Turc n'a qu'à dire : "Telle vache m'appartient, tel cheval ou tel objet est à moi," pour s'en emparer. Ça ne finit plus. Il faut ajouter à cela les dommages agricoles, qui, à nos yeux, ont une importance secondaire.

3. Les perquisitions domiciliaires sont le plus terrible de nos maux et, en quelque sorte, le fléau de notre localité.

Au début, elles avaient lieu sans même l'assistance du moukhtar. Depuis peu celui-ci est appelé. Chacun n'en est pas moins à bout de patience, car la situation de nos nationaux est devenue intolérable. Il est à craindre que cela ne finisse par un éclat. Il ne se passe pas de jour sans que quelqu'un ne dise: "Je demande une perquisition dans les maisons arméniennes où je présume qu'il y a des meubles m'appartenant," pour que plusieurs fonctionnaires soient aussitôt chargés de prêter leur assistance à cet individu qui, fort de l'appui des autorités, pénètre, quand il veut et comme il veut, dans les domiciles arméniens, qu'il met sens dessus dessous, proférant toute sorte d'injures et de menaces à l'adresse des Arméniens.

Par suite de ces violences, plusieurs femmes sont tombées malades et le nommé Ghougassian Krikor s'est suicidé de désespoir.

Tchorlou, le 16 (29) *juillet*, 1913.

[38057] No. 307.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 714.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August* 12, 1913.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 706 of the 5th August, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an extract from a letter written to a British merchant here by his agent at Dedeagatch describing the wanton destruction committed by the Bulgarians when they evacuated that port, and reporting that 230 of the inhabitants were carried away by them. Conduct such as this contrasts singularly with the behaviour of the Bulgarians during their withdrawal from the territory east of the Enos-Midia line, which, as I have pointed out elsewhere, appears, from all information in my possession other than that derived from Turkish official sources, to have been unaccompanied by any excess of a serious nature.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 307.

Extract from a Letter communicated to Mr. Marling.

LES Bulgares en partant ont incendié les hangars de la Banque Impériale ottomane ainsi que de la Banque de Salonique. Pour 2,000,000 de francs de marchandises sont incendiées, dont 400 sacs d'alpistes. Ils avaient l'intention d'incendier tout Dédéagatch en commençant par notre dépôt No. 6, mais ils n'ont pas eu le temps.

Lorsque nous avons forcé les portes du magasin No. 6 avec les autorités hellènes et le vice-consul d'Angleterre (car ils avaient emporté la clef), nous y avons trouvé huit bidons de pétrole troués et du pétrole répandu au sol; nous ne savons même si l'orge qui nous reste est intacte et nous allons la mesurer.

Notre sieur Em. Altinalmazis, quoique protégé allemand, a été emprisonné, et moyennant finance a eu la vie sauvée. Nous ignorons le sort de 230 de nos concitoyens qu'ils ont amenés avec eux.

[38119] No. 308.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 247.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, August* 12, 1913.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 246, I have the honour to report that the Russian press continues to attack French policy in regard to Cavalla, more especially with regard to the statement made in the "Temps" to the effect that Russia is sailing in the wake of Austria.

The "Novoe Vremya" adopts an attitude of *tu quoque*, and in return accuses France of following in the wake of Germany. It asserts, moreover, that Russian policy in this question is in accordance with the Russian point of view and not with German, French, or Austrian views. In illustration of this it points out that what Russia desires is the peaceful development of the Balkan races, and that this cannot be obtained unless the Balkan settlement is a just one. With this end in view she endeavoured to obtain Ishtib and Cavalla for Bulgaria. Whereas, by largely contributing to deprive Bulgaria of the possession of Cavalla, a vital part of the general Balkan question, France has helped to create conditions for a future Greco-Bulgarian contest and is thereby furthering the policy of Austria.

The "Rech" also deplores the newspaper campaign which has arisen between the two countries. It denies in similar terms the imputation of "certain frivolous French journalists" that Russia is inspired by Austria, and declares that the former is only acting in pursuance of her traditional policy, the establishment of a lasting peace in the Balkans, which will not be humiliating to any one State. This journal adds that those responsible for French policy must understand that the present divergence of aim between the two allied countries may be ignored for a while, but cannot be allowed to continue or grow wider unpunished.

Another journal, the "Bourse Gazette," attributes such a statement as that of the "Temps" to the entire ignorance in Paris of Russian public opinion and the aims of Russian diplomacy.

As regards the declaration made in the "Matin" that the French Government had never been informed of Russia's views concerning Cavalla, and that, consequently, its attitude cannot in any way be considered disloyal to Russia, the "Novoe Vremya," reverting once more to its usual criticism of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, announces that if this is really so then the fiasco as regards Cavalla is due not to a French betrayal, but to the criminal negligence of the Russian Foreign Office itself.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
NEVILE HENDERSON

[38065] No. 309.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 722.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August* 14, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the acting military attaché to this Embassy, reporting on movements of the Turkish troops.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure in No. 309.

Mr. Cooper to Mr. Marling.

(No. 33.)

Sir, *Therapia, August* 12, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the following information which I have gathered from a source which is usually creditable:—

On the 24th July the Turkish troops were operating on three different lines:—

1. From Adrianople to Mustapha Pasha.
2. From Koulélibourgas to Dedeagatch.
3. From Kirk Kilissé to Buyuk Dervend.

The troops from Adrianople occupied Mustapha Pasha on the night of the 24th July, having received orders to pass the original Turco-Bulgarian frontier, but to go no further than the station of Lioubimetz, the first railway station in Bulgarian territory.

The troops working in the direction of Dedeagatch, after some small engagements with a few Bulgarian detachments, occupied Demotica and Soufli.

Those working from Kirk Kilissé crossed the ancient frontier without meeting with any resistance, and occupied the town of Buyuk Dervend.

In these three operations the Turks have captured several Bulgarians, officers as well as men. The Bulgars, taken by surprise by the rapid march of the Turks, had no time to prepare any defence at Adrianople, nor to retire into Bulgarian territory.

The movements of the Turkish troops and trains are hampered by the fact that the Government in its excess of zeal and in the conviction that they will keep the whole of Thrace, are working, at the same time, the transport of the troops as well as that of large numbers of returning refugees, with the idea of ensuring a numerical superiority of Mussulmans in the re-occupied territories. It is reported that the sufferings of these refugees, who have been returned to their farms, are intense, being "dumped down" in thousands in territory which has been devastated by the war, and where they have not the slightest chance of finding any means of subsistence.

The town of Adrianople being under martial law, the secret police are very active, numerous arrests among the non-Mussulman element being of almost daily occurrence, the volunteers (Lazes, Kurds, and Circassians of Adji Bazar, Anatolia), committing outrages and rape against the Christians with impunity. The town has suffered from the Bulgarian occupation, the Moslem houses in general, Greek houses and Jewish particularly, have been ransacked by the Bulgarian "komitajis." Waggon loads of furniture, clothes, &c., having been sent to Bulgaria, addressed to the different towns of the officers and men.

All the military operations are directed by Enver Bey, who works with entire independence. The fortifications are being repaired. All the strategic points have been repaired and fortified with heavy artillery, as well as with a certain number of guns abandoned by the Bulgarians. There are actually 130,000 men at Adrianople.

The bridge over the Arda having been repaired the Turks took possession of Kadikeui and Mustapha Pasha on the 30th July. The station of Kadikeui has been preserved, whereas that of Mustapha Pasha is in ashes, the Turks having burnt it during their retreat in the first period of the war. The Bulgarians improvised a station of wood which they have left intact, as well as the telegraphic apparatus.

The surrounding villages of Mustapha, for the most part inhabited by Bulgarians, have not suffered by the Bulgarian invasion, whereas the Turkish villages have been absolutely destroyed. In their turn, the Turks, during their last march forward into Bulgarian territory (the volunteers, Kurds, Lazes, Arabs and Circassians) have revenged themselves against the non-Moslem villagers, a great number of whom have fled into Bulgaria. For the same reason, a great number of Armenian employés on the railway have abandoned their posts and have fled into Bulgaria. I have heard from the usual source that the Turkish troops, unaccompanied by correspondents and free from all censure undoubtedly committed atrocities on Bulgarian territory during their march on Lioubimetz. On the other hand, the Bulgarians on leaving Mustapha Pasha committed every kind of excess, raping and massacring.

It appears that on or about the 3rd August the station of Kadikeui was effectively set fire to by some Bulgarian "komitajis." The Turkish soldiers, who attempted to pursue them fell into an ambuscade and had to retire into Turkish territory, having been decimated by the Bulgarian troops. It is reported that this incident gave rise to serious reprisals on the part of the Turks.

The Government have ordered Izzet Pasha to accelerate the concentration of the troops, and of all war material, along the old Turco-Bulgarian frontier, from Mustapha Pasha to Vassilico. Fresh troops, coming from Asia Minor, are being disembarked almost daily at Vassilico.

The mixed advanced guard of Enver Bey, which had occupied Lioubimetz, on an order from the commander-in-chief, fell back on Mustapha, but afterwards advanced a few kilometres to the north of that town.

Independently of the daily rail transport of troops towards Mustapha Pasha and Kirk Kilissé, several contingents march on foot, spreading terror wherever they go, devastating the country and raping the Christian women.

It is reported on creditable authority that the accusations of brutality shown by the Turkish troops towards the Christians are perfectly well founded.

In the villages, as well as in the town of Adrianople, the misery of the people is indescribable. The agglomeration of the refugees (intentionally worked by the Government) presents a lamentable aspect. Men, women, and children in rags begging for bread. The Turkish Government (having forced them to install themselves in

territory which is absolutely devastated) do not take any steps to ameliorate their condition. They are left without shelter and starving, exposed to the excesses of the Turkish troops.

Reports of such excesses against the Christian inhabitants are also received from Tchorlou.

The Greek troops, which were disembarked at Dedeagatch after having occupied Ferré, advanced towards Kavadjik, a small Greek village about 4 miles from Bidikli. The Turkish commander-in-chief ordered the commandant of Demotica not to commit any hostile act *vis-à-vis* the Greeks, if the latter should come into contact with the Turkish advanced posts at Soufli.

On the 5th August money was distributed at Adrianople to all the officers, from the Committee of National Defence, for "good services rendered to the country." This has for the moment reconciled the officers who were discontented with and hostile to the Committee of Union and Progress for having condemned to death the assassins of Mahmoud Shevket Pasha.

It is reported that the officers are eager for a fresh war against the Bulgarians to revenge the treatment which the Mussulman women suffered at the hands of the Bulgarians. The German military attaché states that the Turks have at this moment, 7th August, 250,000 men in Thrace (including Constantinople), viz. —

160,000 at Adrianople and Kirk Kilissé.
30,000 at Chatalja lines.
15,000 at Gallipoli peninsula.
10,000 at Constantinople.
35,000 drafted from Asia Minor for the two new army corps which are being formed in Thrace.

He states that the railway is running twelve to eighteen military trains with daily supplies daily; a nineteenth train could be run if necessary.

From reports received it appears that the Turkish troops at the front are being well supplied with all necessaries, and that their spirit is excellent.

They would appear to be in a far better condition than the hastily raised forces which confronted Bulgaria at the beginning of the war, when Nazim Pasha had dismissed 120,000 men who had just completed their fourth year in the ranks.

On the 7th August the headquarters of the Turkish army were at Baba Eski. Transport of troops is still being carried on daily. 5,500 infantry soldiers arrived at Kirk Kilissé from Alpollou on the 7th August, while on the 11th August the following arrived at Adrianople from Hademkeui:—

122 officers.
313 artillery.
10,928 infantry soldiers.
2,250 cases of Mauser cartridges.
10 waggon loads of shells.
25 Howitzers.
12 Krupp guns.
300 stretchers.
83 draft horses.

Contrary to the first period of the war, every man is now provided with sufficient provisions for at least five days, which rule is strictly carried out.

Every battalion is completed (850 strong) with fresh regulars. The officers have been ordered to familiarise themselves with and to get to know the men under their command.

His Majesty's vice-consul at Adana reports that the Roumanian steamer, which called at Mersina on the 6th August, had on board about 900 redifs from the Yemen, embarked at Beyrout for Constantinople. The redifs were unruly and apparently gave the agent of the steamship company a good deal of trouble.

I have, &c.
R. A. COOPER.

[38014] No. 310.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 122.)

Sir, *Marienbad, August 14, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Emperor of Austria has sent the following telegram to the King of Roumania:—

"I beg you to accept my heartiest congratulations on the work of pacification which has been accomplished under your guidance, and which has put an end to the bloodshed in the Balkans and assured peace to your country.

"As hitherto, I shall in the future feel the liveliest sympathy in everything which furthers the prosperity of you and your country."

The King of Roumania has replied as follows:—

"Your hearty congratulations and warm sympathy on the occasion of the peace concluded in my capital have caused me great pleasure, and I thank you with all my heart for this further proof of the true friendship which you have always shown me, especially in times of difficulty.

"May the peace which has just been concluded be a lasting one, and may tranquillity at length reign in the Balkan Peninsula, which has been so sorely tried during the last year, and bring blessings to our countries."

The comparatively late date at which the Emperor's telegram has been despatched would seem to point to the fact that it was not sent without a certain reluctance. The passage in the King of Roumania's reply expressing the hope that the peace will be a lasting one may be taken to indicate that King Carol is anxious to take this opportunity of impressing on Austria-Hungary his intention that the peace of Bucharest is to be definitive.

The "Neue Freie Presse," in its leading article this morning, welcomes the exchange of telegrams, and argues that it puts an end to the campaign in favour of revision, and at the same time to any misunderstandings which may have arisen during the recent crisis between Austria-Hungary and Roumania. The "Neue Freie Presse" construes the words "times of difficulty" as referring in particular to Austria-Hungary's support of Roumania at the St. Petersburgh conference.

The article proceeds to urge Roumania to cling more closely than ever to the Triple Alliance, and warns her by the terrible example of Bulgaria against the fate of those who put their trust in Russia.

I have, &c.
FAIRFAX CARTWRIGHT

[37992] No. 311.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 290. Confidential.)

Sir, *Berlin, August 14, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 289 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report that I asked the Acting Secretary of State of the Foreign Office this morning, if it was not too indiscreet a question, what the action of the German Emperor had been which called forth the gratitude expressed in the King of Roumania's first telegram. Herr Zimmermann assured me that there had been no special action beyond that the Imperial Government had all along given moderating advice to the various Balkan Governments, and the Emperor had probably given the same advice privately, but that His Majesty had certainly not exercised any "pressure" on the King of Greece or anybody else. The fact was, he told me confidentially, that King Charles's telegram had been a very clever little trick, which had been eminently successful, as even the highest were not insusceptible to flattery.

Herr Zimmermann said that the Austrians were no doubt not over pleased at the exchange of telegrams or at the appointment of King Constantine to be a German

Field Marshal, but they had not complained of these things officially—it would have been difficult for them to do so. Though he had no direct or definite news on the subject, he fancied the Austrians were calming down on the subject of revision, and he cherished a great hope that we should not hear much more about it, especially as Russia, too, seemed less inclined to insist on revision. He considered that revision was obviously impossible for more than one reason. First, the Powers were certainly not unanimous on the subject, as he believed none of them wished for revision except Russia and Austria; and, secondly, the two latter Powers were also not really in agreement, as, though both wished to revise in favour of Bulgaria, Russia wished to do so at the expense of Greece and Austria at the expense of Servia.

Herr Zimmermann expressed his satisfaction and concurrence with your speech in the House of Commons on the 12th instant, and spoke in the highest possible terms of the services which you have rendered during all these months to the cause of the peace of Europe.

I have, &c.
GRANVILLE.

P.S. *August 15.*—Herr Zimmermann this morning referred much more distinctly than he did yesterday to Austria's displeasure with Germany. I asked if they had mentioned it officially, and, though he did not quite admit that, he said they had made it plain in many little ways.

G

[38027] No. 312.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 86.)

Sir, *Bucharest, August 14, 1913.*

IN continuation of Sir G. Barclay's despatch No. 83 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the remaining protocols of the sittings of the Peace Conference at Bucharest, including the Treaty of Peace and its annexes.*

Article 1 states that from the date of ratification of the treaty peace and amity will reign between the belligerents.

Article 2 defines the territorial limits between Roumania and Bulgaria; specifies that Bulgaria shall dismantle within two years the fortresses of Rustchuk and Shumla and that she shall not erect any more fortifications either there or in the intermediate country, or within a zone of 20 kilom. from Baltchik; and provides for the appointment of a commission to delimit the new frontier line on the spot within fifteen days. In case of disagreement, recourse is to be had to the arbitration of an arbitrator appointed by a friendly Government. (From Protocol No. 10 it will be seen that the Government in question will be either the Belgian, Swiss, or the Dutch.)

Article 3 defines the new frontier between Servia and Bulgaria, with the same provisions as above as regards delimitation and arbitration in case of disagreement.

Article 4. Servia and Bulgaria undertake to settle their long-pending differences concerning their old frontiers.

Article 5 defines the new frontier between Greece and Bulgaria, with the same provisions as in the cases of Roumania and Servia as regards delimitation and arbitration in the event of disagreement. Bulgaria renounces all pretensions to Crete.

Article 6 deals with the demobilisation, to begin within twenty-four hours, of the Bulgarian Army.

Article 7 provides for the evacuation of Bulgarian territory by the allies within a fortnight of the completion of Bulgarian demobilisation.

Article 8 maintains the right of requisitioning, against payment, by the allied armies in Bulgaria; the free use of the railways, the care of the wounded.

Article 9 deals with the question of the prisoners of war, their exchange, the mode of settlement of the expenses incurred on their behalf.

Article 10 stipulates that the ratifications shall be exchanged at Bucharest within fifteen days.

* Not printed.

As will be seen, the treaty does not deal with the question of compensation for wanton damage caused by the troops nor with certain questions relating to churches and schools. As regards the first, the Greek proposal was to have the amount of damages fixed by a mixed commission, comprising foreign members as provided by The Hague Convention. To this the Bulgarian delegates objected, as being a means of prolonging among the population thus added the terrible reminiscences of the war.

As regards the second, the Bulgarian proposal that Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, and Servia should recognise in their newly acquired territories the autonomy of religious communities and the liberty of schools, was rejected by the Servians refusing to discuss the question which they said was governed by the Servian constitution. The real reason is, however, that Servia does not wish the Bulgarian religious communities to continue their anti-Serb propaganda in the new territories as in the past. The Greeks had also proposed reservations which were not deemed acceptable by the Bulgarians. The discussions on the above questions will be found embodied in Protocol No. 10.

In the same protocol will be found the record of the reservations made by the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Ministers respecting the revision of the treaty, and the statement of the Bulgarian delegates that the above reservations had contributed to determine their consent to accept the conditions of peace.

In Protocol No. 11 will be found a declaration of the Bulgarian delegates, who state that, out of deference to the wishes of the Great Powers, they have consented to establish a partition of territory acquired from Turkey based solely on considerations of facts, and they express the hope that Bulgaria will find in the Great Powers support to improve her position in accordance with her sacrifices and with the necessities of her commercial and national development. This called forth protests from the Greek, Servian, and Montenegrin delegates, and the president of the Conference declared that "in taking act of the declaration of the allies, he thought he was expressing a conviction, shared by the entire assembly, in saying that the terms of the statement made by the first Bulgarian delegate could neither weaken nor infirm, in any way whatever, the juridical value of the treaty. This statement of M. Maioresco met with the unanimous approval of the plenipotentiaries.

Besides the Treaty of Peace, an exchange of notes has taken place between the Roumanian and Greek and the Roumanian and Servian plenipotentiaries, securing to the Koutzo-Vlachs in Greek and Servian possessions autonomous privileges for their churches and schools. There is to be one Koutzo-Vlach bishop in each territory appointed by the Roumanian Government, but dependent upon the Metropolitans of Athens and Belgrade, respectively.

I have, &c.
COLVILLE BARCLAY.

Enclosure in No. 312.

Treaty of Peace.

LEURS Majestés le Roi de Roumanie, le Roi des Hellènes, le Roi de Monténégro et le Roi de Serbie, d'une part, et Sa Majesté le Roi des Bulgares, d'autre part, animés du désir de mettre fin à l'état de guerre actuellement existant entre leurs pays respectifs, voulant, dans une pensée d'ordre et d'humanité, épargner à leurs peuples si longtemps éprouvés tout retour de conclure un traité définitif de paix. Leurs dites Majestés ont, en conséquence, nommé pour leurs plénipotentiaires, savoir :

Sa Majesté le Roi de Roumanie : son Excellence M. Titus Maioresco, son Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères ; son Excellence M. Alexandre Marghiloman, son Ministre des Finances, son Excellence M. Take Ionesco, son Ministre de l'Intérieur, son Excellence M. Constantin G. Dissescu, son Ministre des Cultes et de l'Instruction publique, le Général de division aide de camp C. Coanda, Inspecteur général de l'artillerie ; et le Colonel C. Christescu, sous-chef du grand état-major de son armée ;

Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes : son Excellence M. Eleftérios Venizelos, son Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre de la Guerre, son Excellence M. Démètre Panas, Ministre plénipotentiaire, M. Nicolas Politis, professeur de droit international à l'Université de Paris ; le Capitaine Ath. Exodactylos ; et le Capitaine C. Pali ;

Sa Majesté le Roi de Monténégro ; son Excellence le Général Serdar Yanko Voukotitch, son Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre de la Guerre ; et M. Jean Matanovitch, ancien Chargé d'Affaires de Monténégro à Constantinople ;

Sa Majesté le Roi de Serbie : son Excellence M. Nicolas P. Pachitch, son Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères ; son Excellence M. Mihailo G. Ristitch, son Envoyé extraordinaire et Ministre plénipotentiaire à Bucarest, son Excellence M. le Docteur Miroslaw Spalaikovitch, Envoyé extraordinaire et Ministre plénipotentiaire ; le Colonel K. Smilvanitch ; et le Lieutenant-Colonel D. Kalafatovitch ;

Sa Majesté le Roi des Bulgares : son Excellence M. Dimitri Tontchef, son Ministre des Finances ; le Général-Major Ivan Fitchef, chef de l'état-major de son armée, M. Sawa Ivantchof, docteur en droit, ancien Vice-Président du Sobranié ; M. Siméon Radef ; et le Lieutenant-Colonel d'état-major Constantin Stantchef ;

Lesquels, suivant la proposition du Gouvernement Royal de Roumanie, se sont réunis en conférence à Bucarest, munis de pleins pouvoirs, qui ont été trouvés en bonne et due forme.

L'accord s'étant heureusement établi entre eux, ils sont convenus des stipulations suivantes :—

ARTICLE 1er.

Il y aura, à dater du jour de l'échange des ratifications du présent traité, paix et amitié entre Sa Majesté le Roi de Roumanie, Sa Majesté le Roi des Bulgares, Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes, Sa Majesté le Roi de Monténégro et Sa Majesté le Roi de Serbie, ainsi qu'entre leurs héritiers et successeurs, leurs États et sujets respectifs.

ARTICLE 2.

Entre le Royaume de Bulgarie et le Royaume de Roumanie, l'ancienne frontière entre le Danube et la mer Noire est, conformément au procès-verbal arrêté par les délégués militaires respectifs et annexé au Protocole No. 5 du 22 juillet (4 août), 1913, de la Conférence de Bucarest, rectifiée de la manière suivante :

La nouvelle frontière partira du Danube, en amont de Turtukaia, pour aboutir à la mer Noire au sud d'Ekrene.

Entre ces deux points extrêmes, la ligne frontière suivra le tracé indiqué sur les cartes [illegible] et [illegible] de l'état-major roumain, et selon la description annexées au présent article.

Il est formellement entendu que la Bulgarie démantèlera, au plus tard dans un délai de deux années, les ouvrages de fortifications existants et n'en construira pas d'autres à Roustchouk, à Schoumla, dans le pays intermédiaire, et dans un rayon de 20 kilom. autour de Baltchik.

Une commission mixte, composée de représentants des deux hautes parties contractantes, en nombre égal des deux côtés, sera chargée, dans les quinze jours qui suivront la signature du présent traité, l'exécuter sur le terrain le tracé de la nouvelle frontière, conformément aux stipulations précédentes. Cette commission présidera au partage des biens-fonds et capitaux qui ont pu jusqu'ici appartenir en commun à des districts, des communes ou des communautés habitants séparés par la nouvelle frontière. En cas de désaccord sur le tracé et les mesures d'exécution, les deux hautes parties contractantes s'engagent à s'adresser à un Gouvernement tiers ami pour le prier de désigner un arbitre dont la décision sur les points en litige sera considérée comme définitive.

ARTICLE 3.

Entre le Royaume de Bulgarie et le Royaume de Serbie, la frontière suivra, conformément au procès-verbal arrêté par les délégués militaires respectifs et annexé au Protocole No. 9 du 25 juillet (7 août), 1913, de la Conférence de Bucarest, le tracé suivant :—

La ligne frontière partira de l'ancienne frontière, du sommet Patarica, suivra l'ancienne frontière turco-bulgare et la ligne de partage des eaux entre le Vardar et la Strouma, avec l'exception que la haute vallée de la Strounitza restera sur territoire

serbe ; elle aboutira à la montagne Belašica, où elle se reliera à la frontière bulgaro-grecque. Une description détaillée de cette frontière et son tracé sur la carte $\frac{1}{200000}$ de l'état-major autrichien, sont annexés au présent article.

Une commission mixte, composée de représentants des deux hautes parties contractantes, en nombre égal des deux côtés sera chargée, dans les quinze jours qui suivront la signature du présent traité, d'exécuter sur le terrain le tracé de la nouvelle frontière, conformément aux stipulations précédentes.

Cette commission présidera au partage des biens-fonds et capitaux qui ont pu jusqu'ici appartenir en commun à des districts, des communes, ou des communautés d'habitants séparés par la nouvelle frontière. En cas de désaccord sur le tracé et les mesures d'exécution, les deux hautes parties contractantes s'engagent à s'adresser à un Gouvernement tiers ami, pour le prier de désigner un arbitre dont la décision sur les points en litige sera considérée comme définitive.

Article 4.

Les questions relatives à l'ancienne frontière serbo-bulgare seront réglées suivant l'entente intervenue entre les deux hautes parties contractantes, constatée dans le protocole annexé au présent article.

Article 5.

Entre le Royaume de Grèce et le Royaume de Bulgarie, la frontière suivra, conformément au procès-verbal arrêté par les délégués militaires respectifs et annexé au Protocole No. 9 du 25 juillet (7 août), 1913, de la Conférence de Bucarest, le tracé suivant.

La ligne frontière partira de la nouvelle frontière bulgaro-serbe sur la crête de Belašica planina, pour aboutir à l'embouchure de la Mesta à la mer Égée.

Entre ces deux points extrêmes, la ligne frontière suivra le tracé indiqué sur la carte $\frac{1}{200000}$ de l'état-major autrichien et selon la description annexées au présent article.

Une commission mixte, composée de représentants des deux hautes parties contractantes, en nombre égal des deux côtés, sera chargée, dans les quinze jours qui suivront la signature du présent traité, d'exécuter sur le terrain le tracé de la frontière conformément aux stipulations précédentes.

Cette commission présidera au partage des biens-fonds et capitaux qui ont pu jusqu'ici appartenir en commun à des districts, des communes ou des communautés d'habitants séparés par la nouvelle frontière. En cas de désaccord sur le tracé et les mesures d'exécution, les deux hautes parties contractantes s'engagent à s'adresser à un Gouvernement tiers ami pour le prier de désigner un arbitre dont la décision sur les points en litige sera considérée comme définitive.

Il est formellement entendu que la Bulgarie se désiste, dès maintenant, de toute prétention sur l'île de Crète.

Article 6.

Les quartiers généraux des armées respectives seront aussitôt informés de la signature du présent traité. Le Gouvernement bulgare s'engage à ramener son armée, dès le lendemain de cette signification, sur le pied de paix. Il dirigera les troupes sur leurs garnisons, où l'on procédera, dans le plus bref délai, au renvoi des diverses réserves dans leurs foyers.

Les troupes dont la garnison se trouve située dans la zone d'occupation de l'armée de l'une des hautes parties contractantes seront dirigées sur un autre point de l'ancien territoire bulgare et ne pourront gagner leurs garnisons habituelles qu'après évacuation de la zone d'occupation susvisée.

Article 7.

L'évacuation du territoire bulgare, tant ancien que nouveau, commencera aussitôt après la démobilisation de l'armée bulgare, et sera achevée au plus tard dans la quinzaine.

Durant ce délai, pour l'armée d'opération roumaine, la zone de démarcation sera indiquée par la ligne Sistov–Lovcea–Turski–Izvor–Glozene–Zlatitza–Mirkovo–Araba–Komak–Orehania–Mezdra–Vratza–Berkovitza–Lom–Danube.

Article 8.

Durant l'occupation des territoires bulgares, les différentes armées conserveront le droit de réquisition, moyennant payement en espèces.

Elles y auront libre usage des lignes de chemin de fer pour les transports de troupes et les approvisionnements de toute nature, sans qu'il y ait lieu à indemnité au profit de l'autorité locale.

Les malades et les blessés y seront sous la sauvegarde desdites armées.

Article 9.

Aussitôt que possible après l'échange des ratifications du présent traité, tous les prisonniers de guerre seront réciproquement rendus.

Les Gouvernements des hautes parties contractantes désigneront chacun des commissaires spéciaux chargés de recevoir les prisonniers.

Tous les prisonniers aux mains d'un des Gouvernements seront livrés au commissaire du Gouvernement auquel ils appartiennent ou à son représentant dûment autorisé, à l'endroit qui sera fixé par les parties intéressées.

Les Gouvernements des hautes parties contractantes présenteront respectivement l'un à l'autre et aussitôt que possible après la remise de tous les prisonniers, un état des dépenses directes supportées par lui pour le soin et l'entretien des prisonniers, depuis la date de la capture ou de la reddition jusqu'à celle de la mort ou de la remise. Compensation sera faite entre les sommes dues par la Bulgarie à l'une des autres hautes parties contractantes et celles dues par celles-ci à la Bulgarie, et la différence sera payée au Gouvernement créancier aussitôt que possible après l'échange des états de dépenses susvisés.

Article 10.

Le présent traité sera ratifié et les ratifications en seront échangées à Bucarest dans le délai de quinze jours, ou plus tôt si faire se peut.

En foi de quoi les plénipotentiaires respectifs l'ont signé et y ont apposé leurs sceaux.

Fait à Bucarest, le 28e jour du mois de juillet (10e jour du mois d'août) de l'an 1913.

Pour la Roumanie :
(L.S.) T. MAIORESCO.
AL. MARGHILOMAN
TAKE IONESCO.
C. G. DISSESCO.
Général aide de camp COANDA.
Colonel C. CHRISTESCO.

Pour la Bulgarie :
(L.S.) D. TONTCHEF.
Général FITCHEF.
Dr. S. IVANTCHOF
S. RADEF
Lieutenant-Colonel STANCIOF.

Pour la Grèce :
(L.S.) E. K. VENISELOS.
D. PANAS.
N. POLITIS.
Capitaine A. EXODACTYLOS.
Capitaine PALI.

Pour le Monténégro :
(L.S.) Général SERDAR I. VOUKOTITCH
I. MATANOVITCH.

Pour la Serbie :
(L.S.) NIK. P. PACHITCH.
M. G. RISTITCH.
M. SPALAÏKOVITCH
Colonel K. SMILIANITCH
Lieutenant-Colonel D. KALAFATOVITCH

[37993] No. 313.

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 291.)

Sir, *Berlin, August 15, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 290, Confidential, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that the exchange of telegrams between the German Emperor and the King of Roumania on the occasion of the King of Greece's visit to Berlin for the funeral of Field-Marshal [illegible] and the objects discussed in Vienna by those relatives of His Imperial Majesty have formed the chief subject of discussion in the German press during the past week. The policy of which the Emperor's actions have been the outward and visible sign, namely, the policy of non-intervention and non-recognition of the treaty of Bucharest, has met with the complete approval of all the papers of all parties, but some of them, particularly those of the Centre and Radical parties, express their condemnation of what they consider a wholly unnecessary and gratuitous advertisement of the difference of opinion between the two allies, which obviously could but irritate Austrian public opinion. Others, on the other hand, maintain that Austria has absolutely no right to be annoyed. Germany, as a great independent Power, and, moreover, as the member of the Triple Alliance on whom the other two must depend, and who has made the greatest material sacrifices to ensure her military strength, must really be allowed sometimes to have opinions of her own; she has followed Austria's lead so submissively, and supported her ally so constantly, for objects which do not interest her, and often in spite of her views not coinciding with those of Austria, that the latter has come to imagine that Germany has no right to think for herself at all, and it was high time that this illusion should be dispelled. However, the papers again become unanimous in declaring that this little rift within the lute is of no sort of consequence, and that the alliance between the two countries is much too close and genuine and too vitally important for both parties for it to be disturbed by such an unimportant difference of opinion.

The "Post" publishes a story, which is also hinted at by one or two other papers, that, on the occasion of the visit of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand to the German Emperor at Springe in November last, His Imperial Highness expressed the expectation that Germany would support Austria in her Balkan plans to the fullest extent, and, if necessary, fight for those plans, that the true significance of the alliance was explained to him when it did not admit of Germany plunging into wild adventures for Austria's sake where she had absolutely no interests of her own, and that the Archduke left in a state of great annoyance, which had lasted to a certain extent ever since, and was the reason why the Austrian representative attended either the wedding of Princess Victoria Louise or the Emperor's jubilee. The Imperial Foreign Office has thought it worth while to publish a categorical *dément* of this story in the "Cologne Gazette."

There have been two other semi-official communiqués in the "Cologne Gazette." One, dated the 11th instant, said that the publication of the telegrams of the Emperor and King Charles and the communiqué in the "North German Gazette" on the 10th left no doubt as to Germany's attitude towards the peace of Bucharest; that Germany had no interest in participating in European attempts to revise that treaty, and that she found that other Powers held the same view; that any European action against the treaty was therefore out of the question, and that Germany would co-operate in obtaining the assent of the Powers to the treaty. The second, dated the 12th, denied a story said to be current in Budapest that Germany's opposition to revision was weakening; Germany was not combating other Powers on the subject, but she refused to join in any attempt at revision, and thereby rendered revision impossible, that she was not influenced by any hostility to Bulgaria, but was convinced that it was impossible to gratify Bulgaria's desires without causing a fresh outburst of war.

I have, &c.
GRANVILLE.

[38127] No. 314.

Sir V. Corbett to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 24.)

Sir, *Munich, August 15, 1913.*

THE Treaty of Bucharest has been received by the South German press with complete satisfaction, tempered only in the case of the Liberal and Democratic organs by a suspicion that the anti-Revisionist attitude of Germany was the irresponsible work of the Emperor rather than that of his responsible advisers.

This suspicion has been confirmed by the tone of the King of Roumania's telegram and by the fact that the Vienna papers quote a letter to King Constantine, in which the Emperor is represented as saying "I am fighting like a tiger in defence of your rights."

On the whole, however, the feeling is undoubtedly one of relief that for the present at least the Balkan struggle is at an end without Germany being called on to support in arms what seems to be universally considered as the inept diplomacy of Count Berchtold.

Ever since the defeat of Turkey in the first Balkan war became manifestly inevitable, the Liberal papers in this part of Germany have been somewhat cold in their attitude towards Austria. But the most outspoken article which has yet come to my notice appeared in the "Münchener Zeitung" of the 13th. The writer bluntly tells Austria that she is responsible for the present predicament, that Germany cannot be expected to make good all her ally's losses, and that Austria has only herself to blame for her present isolation. Nor is it any use for Austria to hope that the country will some day have to pay to assist Germany, as Germany has shown herself entirely independent from a military point of view.

Your recent statement in Parliament as corrected by yourself proved of so unexpected a quarter as the "Münchener Neueste Nachrichten," whose issue of the 14th gives the first place to the following telegram from its Berlin correspondent:

"The remarks of Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons coincide in all points with the German view. This is particularly true of his remarks concerning the questions of Adrianople and the Ægean Islands, and his rejection of the proposals to revise the peace of Bucharest. In the question of Adrianople Germany too takes up the standpoint of a friend of Turkey, who would not participate in any measures to coerce the Porte, should such be proposed by a third party. She can, however, only associate herself with Sir Edward Grey's advice to Turkey to concentrate and not to dissipate her forces. In the question of the islands, Italy can credit herself with a moral victory, for which we are sincerely glad. Finally, in the question of revision, in which the policy of negligible forces has the same place as in that of Adrianople, it would appear as though a great deal from Vienna's initiative [illegible] has given to the standpoint of the majority of the Great Powers. We [illegible] that the [illegible] views being expressed in Vienna [illegible] by the 'Reichspost,' will [illegible] with surprise that the speedy [illegible] this question must be quietly accepted and that the alliance between Germany and Austria is not thereby affected."

I have, &c.
VINCENT CORBETT.

[38022] No. 315.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 142.)

Sir, *Belgrade, August 15, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, all my colleagues having now received their instructions in the sense of your telegrams Nos. 115 and 116 to Sir R. Paget of the 30th ultimo, it is proposed to make joint representations to the Servian Government on the subject of the evacuation of Albania by Servian troops and the protection of minorities in the territories ceded to Servia, as soon as may be possible after the return of M. Pashitch from Bucharest on the 16th instant.

On the 7th instant I took an opportunity of reminding the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the statement he made to Sir R. Paget on the 24th ultimo, viz., that Servian troops were being retained in Oroshi only as a precaution

against the formation of bands which might operate against them, and that these troops would be withdrawn as soon as peace was declared and the country was in a more normal condition. M. Stefanovitch informed me that Servian troops had in fact already been withdrawn from Pouka. Their retention in Oroshi was due to information which had reached the Servian Government to the effect that the so-called provisional Government at Valona was endeavouring, at the instigation of the Austrian and Italian consuls, to organise incursions into Servian territory. So far this endeavour had been unsuccessful, but the Servian Government feared that, once it withdrew its troops, the door might be thrown open to such incursions. So far the Mirdites had kept quiet, and M. Stefanovitch did not apprehend a collision with them. I understood him, however, to fear that, once the Servians had turned their backs, the Mirdites might be open to inducements to raid Servian territory. M. Stefanovitch spoke in strong terms of the venality of Albanian beys, and painted in the darkest colours the future prospects of the new principality.

I gather from various conversations I have had with M. de Hartwig that he is in sympathy with the Servian standpoint in regard to evacuation as above outlined, and I fancy he has impressed his views on the Russian Government, and, as on so many previous occasions, will make his representations somewhat *à contre cœur*.

On receipt of your telegram No. 120 of yesterday's date, instructing me to join my colleagues in representations on the subject of free access for Albanians to the markets of Djakova and Dibra, I called on M. de Hartwig and asked him whether he had yet received similar instructions as the Austrian Minister, whom I had seen the evening before, was particularly anxious that these representations should be made simultaneously with the others and as speedily as possible, in which desire I fully concurred. M. de Hartwig told me that these instructions had not yet reached him. On my reading him their text, he at once remarked, with a smile, that the Austrian objective undoubtedly was to obtain an outlet for their own trade in Servian territory, the Albanians themselves being by nature and tradition but little interested in questions of an economic nature. I mention this in order to show how difficult it still remains to get the Russian Minister to fall into line when joint representations have to be made, and there is of course always the danger of the pill being carefully sugared when it is ultimately presented to the Servian Government by M. de Hartwig.

Instructions in the sense of your telegram No. 118 of the 9th August in regard to evacuation by Servian troops of various points giving access to Djakova market have been received by the Austrian but not yet by the Russian Minister.

I have, &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[38023] No. 316.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 143.)
Sir, *Belgrade, August 15, 1913.*

IN contrast to the jubilations which are reported to have taken place in Bucharest and Athens, the signature of peace was greeted in Belgrade with singular calm. It is expected, however, that the entry of the Crown Prince into Belgrade at the head of the army, which is to take place shortly, will be made the occasion of more considerable demonstration.

The question of the revision of the treaty has been the cause of very violent articles in the Servian press directed against Austria, Italy, and Russia indiscriminately. So acrimonious in fact has been the language used against the two latter countries that the semi-official "Samouprava" has on two occasions had to call the press to order and counsel moderation. Public opinion has been especially bitter against Russia for taking Bulgaria's part in the matter of revision, after having expressly stated that the responsibility would rest with the country which commenced hostilities. I learn that the Russian Minister does not view revision with favour, and his opinion is certainly a factor to be reckoned with, and may have had considerable influence at St. Petersburgh. His argument is that were Cavalla obtained for Bulgaria, Austria would endeavour to obtain so general a revision of the treaty that a grave risk of international complications might ensue. I hear on good authority that M. de Hartwig has recently stated that he considers his work in Servia on behalf of Pan-Slavism to be now practically completed.

With regard to Austria there is no doubt that public opinion here would generally welcome anything approaching to a betterment of Austro-Servian relations, but it is considered that Austria's attitude both before and after the recent war does not hold out much hope in this direction.

The Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs spoke to me this morning in very cheerful language of the prospects of a rapid Serbisation of the Kotchana and Ishtib districts, of which the population is reputedly Bulgarian. He assured me that these people, who could only be properly designated as Macedonians, were only waiting for a definite decision as to the nationality on to which they might finally be grafted, and asked for nothing better than to be attached to some stable form of administration. It was, according to M. Stefanovitch, really for strategic reasons rather than on grounds of nationality that Bulgaria was hoping for treaty revision in regard to Kotchana. Kotchana dominated and was the key to Ishtib, as recent operations had clearly proved.

I have, &c.
DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[37997] No. 317

Earl Granville to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 294.)
Sir, *Berlin, August 16, 1913.*

ALL the German papers published full reports of your speech in the House of Commons on the 12th instant, and most of them have since had articles on the subject. On the whole, it may be said that these references to your speech and to your work during the last nine months have been friendly, appreciative, and laudatory, but a good many writers have been unable to resist a few rather disagreeable little hints and one might say pinpricks. For instance, the Bismarckian "Hamburger Nachrichten" said that your object in calling together the Ambassadors' conference was to hold a "Congress of London" under another name, which should put into the shade the Congress of Berlin; that you had entirely failed therein, as a comparison between the two gatherings was all in favour of the latter: the Berlin Congress succeeded in one month in effecting a settlement on a great number of questions which had lasted for thirty years, while the London Conference in over eight months had not definitely settled the only two questions at issue took, and therefore, though your services were great, and merited the gratitude of Europe, in that you had succeeded in warding off the danger of war, your personality could not compare with that of the great presiding genius of the Berlin Congress. The "Berliner Tageblatt" tried to make out that, though you had done very well, you claimed considerably more merit than you really deserved, as Germany's help and co-operation had been of inestimable value and deserved equal credit, that much of your speech was extremely vague and uncertain, that the actual results of the Ambassadors' meetings were very small, and that you had been careful not to mention in your speech the clever way in which England had, as usual, to look after her own interests in seizing the opportunity of Turkey's difficulties to obtain from her valuable concessions on the Persian Gulf, &c.

Strange to say, the Pan-German and anti-English "Post" was one of the papers that wrote one of the pleasantest and most friendly articles. It praised you in very high terms for all you have done, and heartily approved of your attitude towards the questions of Adrianople, Asiatic Turkey, the Treaty of Bucharest and the Ægean Islands. With regard to the last, the "Post" expressed its pleasure that it was now definitely laid down that no Great Power should have any of the islands, which disappointed not only the hopes of Italy but also the long-cherished desire of England for the possession of Crete.

Apart from the above and one or two other less glaring instances of rather disagreeable comment, the mass of the papers have expressed genuine praise and admiration of the patience and tact with which you have steered the ship of European peace past the many dangers that have threatened. They admit that you declared from the first that the object of the meetings of Ambassadors was primarily to localise the war and to maintain the concert of Europe, and that they have been eminently successful in so doing. A Berlin telegram in the "Cologne Gazette" of the 13th, said that your speech had met with concurrence here, that the fact of the localisation of the

war and the maintenance of peace between the Great Powers, in spite of the many differences of opinion on very complicated questions, was recognised to be largely due to you in your position of patient and careful head of the Ambassadors' meetings, and that it was your mediating influence that brought about at the last meeting the agreement between France and Italy on the question of the islands, and, finally, that it had been noticed here with pleasure that in this agreement Italy's view, which had always been supported by Germany, had been accepted in principle.

Naturally the two parts of your speech which have excited the most interest and approval here were those that bore on the questions of the revision of the Treaty of Bucharest and the occupation of Adrianople by the Turks. All the papers agree in expressing their pleasure that your attitude towards revision coupled with the German attitude renders such revision impossible. The Adrianople question is recognised as being most difficult. Though the papers approve of the firm words of warning you addressed to Turkey, they have great doubts as to the Turks paying much attention to them. The stories published in the various capitals as to the attitude of the different Powers towards this question and the means suggested for persuading the Turks to retire are quoted and discussed at great length but without much illuminating the matter. Last night's "Cologne Gazette" published a telegram from Berlin stating that the reports in the French press ascribing some special activity in the Adrianople question to German policy or to the Emperor himself were mistaken, that Germany in this question proceeded in harmony with the other Powers so far as diplomatic advice to the Porte was concerned, but, in the ranks of the Powers, she belonged to those who observed particular reserve in this question.

I have, &c.
GRANVILLE.

P.S. August 17.—I have the honour to enclose translation of a communiqué in the "North German Gazette" this morning, expressing the German official view of the labours of the Ambassadors' meetings and of your services in that connection.

G.

Enclosure in No. 317.

Extract from the "North German Gazette" of August 17, 1913.

THE meetings of Ambassadors in London, having settled so far as possible the questions of the Albanian frontiers and of the islands, have for the present concluded their task. Sir Edward Grey has delivered an impressive epilogue to their activity in his admirable statement in the House of Commons. The British Secretary of State has received the gratitude of Europe for his conduct of the London conversations, and this gratitude cannot be small if one judges the work of the meetings, as justice requires on the criterion of what they have spared Europe. Germany can look back with satisfaction on the fact that she co-operated in the institution of the London conversations and helped, while they lasted, by her mediatory attitude to ensure many results some of which in particular are not without value to our friends of the Triple Alliance.

It may be hoped that the good-will and desire for unanimity which were displayed in London will also govern the exchange of views which will presumably have to take place between the Governments of the Great Powers in order to settle their attitude towards the Bucharest Treaty of Peace.

[38252] No. 318.

M. Madjarof to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

Sir, *Bulgarian Legation, London, August* 16, 1913.

NOT content with having violated the frontier Midia-Enos and occupied the territories to the east of Maritza, the Turkish armies have within the last few days invaded the regions situated on the right bank of that river. They have taken possession of Mustapha Pasha, Dimotika, Soflou, and have penetrated as far as

Kutchukavak, some 70 kilom. to the west of Maritza. Other troops are advancing in the direction of Kirdjali and Gumerdjina.

An excuse for this unjustifiable invasion has been found in some alleged persecution of the Turkish inhabitants by the Bulgarian army. The very fact that the Turks have occupied the territories in question before the arrival of the Bulgarian forces is the best proof that the alleged persecution are no more than a pretext. In order that this might be established in a peremptory manner, the Bulgarian Government propose that the reoccupation of all those regions by the Bulgarian military and civil authorities should take place in the presence of the military attaches of the Great Powers in Sophia.

I venture to avail myself of this opportunity of once more laying stress on the danger of a possible conflict between the Bulgarian garrisons and the Turkish forces should the latter persist in their forward movement. The Bulgarian Government earnestly hope that the Great Powers will not fail to adopt immediate and effective measures for terminating a situation which, besides threatening the peace in the Balkans, constitutes a flagrant violation of a treaty concluded under their combined auspices.

I have, &c.
M. IO. MADJAROF.

[38900] No. 319.

Memorandum communicated by German Embassy, August 18, 1913.

(Translation.)

IN his note of the 31st ultimo Sir Edward Grey made known the standpoint of the British Government in regard to certain cases of interference on the part of the Albanian Provisional Government in the working arrangements of the Ottoman Debt.

The German Government, who were informed by Prince Lichnowsky of the contents of this note, share the opinion of the British Government, and they have accordingly authorised their representative at Constantinople, after consulting with his British colleague, to make to the president of the Public Debt Administration the communication proposed by Great Britain.

In addition to the case referred to above, it would appear from two letters addressed by Sir Adam Block to the German Ambassador on the 9th (22nd) July and 20th July (2nd August) that further cases of interference by the Albanian authorities in the administration of the Public Debt have occurred.

According to the first of these letters, which have no doubt also been communicated to the representatives of the other Great Powers, the Albanian authorities instructed the personnel of the Public Debt Administration in Albania, under threat of dismissal, to assign to the account of the Albanian Government the sources of revenue earmarked for the Debt.

In the second letter complaint is made that the Albanian Government are asking that the yield of the revenue earmarked for the Debt should be paid to them as the money comes in, on a receipt being given for the same, and, further, that, regardless of the rights of the Tobacco Régie, they have decided to put a tax on the importation of tobacco.

The Imperial Government think that, as regards these measures directed against the importation of tobacco, the matter had better be allowed to rest at the protest mentioned in Sir Adam Block's last letter as having been lodged by the Regie until the establishment of the proposed International Commission of Control.

It would be of interest to the Imperial Government to learn whether the British Government propose to take steps forthwith to combat these measures.

German Legation, London,
August 18, 1913.

[38084] No. 320.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Cettinjé, August 17, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 77 of 30th July: Reforms.

Collective representation made yesterday in terms of your telegram. A confidential verbal commentary was added that use of liberties conceded to minorities is subordinated to the law commonly applicable to all Montenegrin subjects. The Austrian, French, Italian, and Russian Ministers were instructed to make this declaration, and the German Minister adhered to it. In these circumstances I ventured to think you would not wish me to object or to dissociate myself from them.

[38253] No. 321.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 305.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, August 18, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 595 of 14th August.

The Russian Government have no objection to the appointment of one French and one German financial expert for Scutari.

[38262] No. 322.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 307.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 18, 1913.*

IN conversation last night Minister for Foreign Affairs talked of going on leave in a few days, and said he intended treating Adrianople question in calm spirit. This afternoon I found him greatly depressed and preoccupied by news of Turkey's advance beyond Maritza and to Mustapha Pasha. It was impossible, he said, to say what Turkey would next do, but she could not be allowed to go on treating Europe with contempt, more especially as her present action was in contravention of assurances which she had given. We all had our respective interests in Turkey, but if she now set Europe at defiance with impunity we should find her very difficult to deal with when we tried to assert those interests. If European concert no longer existed there was always Triple *Entente*, and he thought England, France, and Russia ought to concert some common form of action. I suggested that it would be better to consult all Powers with a view to adoption of some collective action before advancing any proposal for separate action by one group alone. Your policy throughout had been to keep Powers in line, and the fact that we had to take into account [illegible] of our Moslem subjects made it more difficult for us to go farther than other Powers in bringing pressure to bear on Turkey.

Minister for Foreign Affairs said he was tired of consulting Powers. He had addressed some twenty or more circulars to them without any result. Though he did not put it forward as a formal proposal, his Excellency said that England, France, and Russia might break off diplomatic relations with Turkey. He did not however, explain what we were to do should this step fail to produce desired effect.

Subsequently he said that he was separating this question from that of Adrianople, as latter was to be dealt with by financial pressure, but that Turks' present attitude might force Russia to take isolated action. She might have to recall her Ambassador at once, and perhaps seize some port. If Turkey was not careful she would end by involving Russia in war.

I reminded his Excellency of his promise to take no action (see my telegram No. 299 of 11th August) without first consulting London and Paris. All that he replied was that he was consulting us.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has so often moderated attitude which he has at first adopted when confronted with some new incident that I cannot say whether he will support his words with deeds, but situation is serious. Russia has given in on many questions during last six months, but there is a limit beyond which she cannot go, and she cannot allow Turkey to go on defying her without serious loss of prestige.

[38259] No. 323

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 18, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 115 of 30th July: Evacuation of Albania.

Joint representations were made yesterday evening.

Prime Minister stated to me that hostile attitude of Mati was the main cause of retention of troops in Oroshi. He had telegraphed to army headquarters to ascertain whether troops could now be withdrawn with safety.

He further sought to excuse retention of troops on ground that frontier line had not yet been finally delimited by commission.

I gather from remarks he made in regard to Mirdites that Servians are doing their utmost to win them over. Prime Minister spoke of possibility of their asking for Servian protectorate. Austrian Minister tells me that Servian propaganda is active among Mirdites, but said that counter-influences are at work.

(Repeated to admiral at Scutari.)

[38258] No. 324

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 196.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 18, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 116 of 30th July: Protection of minorities.

Joint representations were made yesterday evening.

The Prime Minister said he would reply in writing. He said that under the Servian Constitution protection of religious minorities was already provided in the sense of guarantees contained in the Treaty of Berlin.

[38257] No. 325

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 418.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 18, 1913.*

MY telegrams Nos. 406 of 14th August and 409 of 15th August.

The "Tanin" announces to-day that, on the invitation of the Greek General Officer Commanding, Dedeagatch, the Turkish commander at Demotika has sent a force to Dedeagatch, which was formally handed over by the Greeks, pretext being necessity of protecting the Greeks from Bulgarians.

Such action on the part of Greeks seems to be a violation of the Treaty of London, although that treaty forms basis of their present negotiations with Turkey.

(Sent to Athens.)

[38260] No. 326.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 419.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 18, 1913.*

THE open letter to the Prime Minister, signed "Ertoghrul," which recently appeared in the "Daily Telegraph" was first published in a local Committee newspaper. I learn that it was written by Reshid Safvet, who is now touring in Europe at the head of the Adrianople Mission, which the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs declined to receive.

Reshid is well known to Crawford.

[37886] No. 327.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 409.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 18, 1913.

AS to final paragraph of your telegram No. 407 of 15th August, I am confidentially informed, and repeat for your private information only, that there is a good prospect of negotiations being started at Paris between Djavid Bey and M. Ievolsky for a settlement of Russian economic interests in Turkey I cannot agree to suspend conversations with Hakki Pasha, as to do so would merely cause offence and damage our own material interests without any assured compensating advantage. We can only use threats in which other Powers join; we cannot use special threats at our own expense, such as interfering with our special negotiations with Hakki would entail

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[37008] No. 328.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 512.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 18, 1913.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a paraphrase of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to the Admiralty,† which has been communicated to this Office by that Department, emphasising the urgent necessity of extending to the country surrounding Scutari the jurisdiction of the International Commission of Admirals which is at present confined to the town.

I further enclose copies of correspondence with the German Embassy, in which the same point is raised.‡

Your Excellency should inform the Government to which you are accredited of the substance of Sir C. Burney's report, and of my own views on the subject as expressed to the German Embassy, and should ask them to give their early and favourable consideration to the suggestion that the jurisdiction of the present Commission should be extended to the surrounding country.

[36140] No. 329.

Sir Edward Grey to Prince Lichnowsky.

HIS Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has had the honour to receive the communication handed by the German Ambassador to Sir A. Nicolson on the 19th ultimo, relative to the withdrawal of the Servian troops from Albanian territory.

It is pointed out in this communication that it is difficult for the Servian Government to evacuate the districts occupied, in view of the subversive activity of the Bulgarian komitadji Sandansky, who is engaged in stirring up the population of those regions against the Servians and distributing arms to them, and it is accordingly suggested that the attention of the International Commission of Admirals at Scutari should be drawn to this question, in order that any difficulties arising from the proceedings of Sandansky may be prevented.

Sir E. Grey has the honour to observe in reply that, as the jurisdiction of the commission is strictly confined to the town of Scutari itself, they have no authority and could exercise no influence in the districts affected by the intrigues of Sandansky.

Sir E. Grey understands that at present the Austro-Hungarian Government object to any extension of the jurisdiction of the commission, though he himself considers this extremely desirable in the interests of the maintenance of order in the country till the International Commission of Control is established and the Albanian gendarmerie in working order, when the present commission can be withdrawn.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney, who represents this country on the present commission, has lately represented to His Majesty's Government the urgent necessity of thus

* Also to Earl Granville (No. 263), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 164), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 291), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 208), *mutatis mutandis*.
† See Enclosure 2 in No. 170. ‡ Part X, No. 421; and No. 329.

extending their jurisdiction, and, in view of the considerations which he has advanced, Sir E. Grey has instructed His Majesty's representative at the capitals of the other Great Powers to inform the Governments to which they are respectively accredited of my views, and to ask them to give to this suggestion their early and favourable consideration.

Foreign Office, August 18, 1913.

[37137] No. 330

Foreign Office to the Lord Mayor of London

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 18, 1913.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to inform your Lordship that the Admiralty have received a telegram from Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney, the representative of His Majesty's Government on the International Commission now administering the town of Scutari, in which he states that, through the efforts of the Honourable A. Herbert, M.P., a sum of 59*l.* has so far reached him for relief work in Northern Albania. He has visited several villages in the vicinity of Scutari which the Montenegrins occupied during the war, and reports that there are practically no roofs left on any of the houses, and that all the wood in the neighbourhood has been used. The people are at present living in rough canvas shelters, and to save the unfortunate inhabitants from the greatest misery during the coming winter several thousand pounds are required at once for building and repair work.

Sir C. Burney asks that your Lordship may be asked to use your influence to obtain a suitable sum for this work as soon as possible.

I am to state that money will doubtless be required for purposes of relief in all parts of the Balkan Peninsula during the coming winter, and that, if your Lordship were to see fit to invite contributions with this object, it would, in Sir E. Grey's opinion, be unfair that the sums thus obtained should be devoted exclusively to the relief of distress in Northern Albania.

Sir E. Grey considers that, if any such steps were taken, the proceeds of the subscriptions sent should be equally available in Turkey, Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.

I am, &c.
W. LANGLEY

[37739] No. 331.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 18, 1913.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, relative to the repayment of the loan contracted in 1911 for the construction of a bridge over the Boyana at Scutari.

I am to state that the explanations furnished by Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney in the telegram enclosed in your letter do not suffice to make Sir E. Grey understand why the first instalment of a sum borrowed by the municipality of Scutari for a work which exclusively benefits that town should be considered to be repayable by the Ottoman Government, even though the loan may have been contracted under instructions from that Government.

I am accordingly to suggest that Sir C. Burney should be asked by telegraph to report whether any clause exists in the loan contract providing for the repayment of the loan by any particular body, either the Ottoman Government or the municipality of Scutari.

I am, &c.
W. LANGLEY

[39025] No. 332.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 208. Confidential.)

Sir, *Posillipo, August 9, 1913.*

I HAVE had the honour in recent communications to report to you that a somewhat acrimonious press war has for some days past been conducted here in papers of all shades of opinion against the attitude of France on the question of the Ægean islands and the southern frontier of Albania, as described in the "Temps" and other French organs. The Secretary-General told me yesterday that the French Government had drawn attention to this campaign through the Italian Ambassador in Paris, in terms which appeared to cause Signor de Martino considerable preoccupation. He admitted that the tone and temper of the press was regrettable, but did not affirm that any steps had been taken to keep the press under control as has been frequently done during the last two years, when certain questions were officially considered undesirable for public criticism.

He told me the Italian Government had given the French Government the assurance that they continued to be inspired by the most friendly sentiments towards them. To give stronger confirmation to this announcement they had further assured them that the renewed Triple Alliance contained no additions, and that Italy upheld and would loyally observe the engagements which she had contracted with France in 1902, which Signor de Martino only referred to as affecting North Africa, but which, we have reason to know, go considerably further.

I have reported the substance of these observations of the Secretary-General by telegraph, but I think it as well to confirm them also by despatch because, although we have had similar information with regard to the renewed Triple Alliance at second hand, it was the first time that I have had so direct a confirmation given me from Italian official sources.

As regards the press campaign, to which the French Government have called attention, I fear it is impossible altogether to acquit the Italian Government of responsibility for having attempted to appeal to public opinion in this country in support of their present policy with regard to the islands, which undoubtedly to some extent involves a change of attitude from that which they had adopted some weeks ago. The Austrian Ambassador, whose Government is pledged to support the Italian view in all that even indirectly concerns Albania, admitted to me in conversation that they had not been consistent and had changed their mind too often. Further evidence of the hostile character of their policy may be found in a paragraph which appears in the semi-official "Tribuna" of this day's date commenting on the difficulty which has arisen at the reunion of Ambassadors in London in the following terms:—

"The understanding cannot be further prolonged; but if one exists it is not exact. For the Italian Government has never agreed to the theory of correlation of issues of the terms announced by the 'Echo de Paris,' that is to say of the southern frontier of Albania on the one hand with the islands of the Dodecanesus on the other."

I have, &c.

RENNELL RODD.

[38330] No. 333.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 210.)

Sir, *Posillipo, August 16, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I learn from the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the following represents the attitude of the Italian Government on the subject of the revision of the Treaty of Bucharest.

Italy has no particular interest in the question one way or the other, and seeks in the first place a course which will maintain her good relations with all concerned. It is considered here that revision would offend Roumania, with which State the Italian Government are very anxious to remain on good terms, as well as annoy both Servia and Greece. Italy neither wishes to support Austria against Russia, nor Russia against Austria, and sees little likelihood of their agreeing as to the subject matter for revision. Her position, therefore, is that only if all the Powers agree that there

shall be revision and agree as to the special points to be revised, will she be disposed to join.

As regards Adrianople the attitude of the Italian Government is very similar. Italy has no special interests of her own, and desires not to fall out with any of the friendly Powers. The Under Secretary expressed it as his personal impression that Turkey would deal directly with Bulgaria and succeed in obtaining the Maritza line which Kiamil had demanded. In that case, he thought, the Powers might ratify the arrangement.

I have, &c.

RENNELL RODD.

[38276] No. 334.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 420.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 18, 1913.*

EXCEPT German Ambassador and myself, all six representatives have received instructions authorising them to consult as to collective *démarche* for the purpose of exercising most energetic pressure on the Porte. These instructions have been sent at instance of Russia.

There is great divergence of view as to meaning to be attached to word "pressure," Russian Ambassador desiring to introduce into contemplated communication hint of coercion, while Austrian Ambassador is strongly opposed to it.

In these circumstances, as no action can be taken without reference to our Governments, I propose, although situation has altered since date of your telegram, No. 320 of 8th August, to agree to take part in discussion unless otherwise instructed.

(Confidential.)

Russian Ambassador is urging necessity of joint occupation, as in the case of Scutari of terminal points of Enos-Midia line, and I am of opinion that, if carried out at Powers either collectively, or by some of the number in their name, effect would be considerable.

Austrian Ambassador expresses strong disapprobation, and states that he is not prepared to go beyond strongly worded note, which, he says, would at least have effect of deterring Turkey from declaring war on Bulgaria on some pretext.

[38467] No. 335.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 137.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 19, 1913.*

AT invitation of Secretary of State I called on him to-day and found him somewhat in despair as to the Russian proposals for stopping the advance of the Turks.

He said that as regards a financial boycott he was ready to appeal to German banks to refuse advances, but even then, though he would do his best, he could not guarantee that advances would not be made by private financial groups. As regards, however, suggestion that Ottoman Regie should be called on to refuse payment of money to Turkish Government, he could not see his way at all, as the Régie was practically a Turkish institution.

Neither respecting the collective representations to Turkish Government proposed by Russia did he see his way clearly, and he asked what could be done if, as seemed not improbable, Ottoman Government paid no attention to it. Imperial Government could certainly not join in a blockade of Dardanelles or in a naval demonstration of any sort, nor could they land troops anywhere. He was as anxious as anyone to stop advance of Turks, but frankly he had no ideas as to how it could be done, and he much disliked the idea of Powers putting themselves in the position of having their representations refused or ignored.

He would be very glad to have your views on these proposals.

[38466] No. 336.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 348.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, August 19, 1913.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that as at present arranged Greeks are to evacuate Gumuljina on 21st August, but that Bulgarians will not be in a position to reoccupy it before 28th August, and Bulgarian Government are anxious to avoid interregnum during which disorders might occur, giving Turks a pretext for further advance. His Excellency is therefore asking Greek Government to defer evacuation until 28th August, and trusts that you will consent to support his request at Athens. He renews the request reported in my telegram No. 346 of 17th August that military attachés may be permitted to accompany Bulgarian occupation. (End of R.)

I think what his Excellency fears is not so much interregnum as Turkish occupation, and he hopes that Turks will hesitate to expel either a Greek force or a Bulgarian force accompanied by military attachés.

(Sent to Athens, Constantinople, and Bucharest.)

[38461] No. 337.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 349.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, August 19, 1913.*

DEMOBILISATION is expected to be completed by 25th August. Troops from districts occupied by Roumanians are being demobilised south of the Balkans and return home unarmed. Four classes are being retained with the colours, numbering about 80,000.

(Sent to Bucharest.)

[38462] No. 338.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 177.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Bucharest, August 19, 1913.*

"MONITEUR OFFICIEL" publishes Royal decree ratifying Bucharest Treaty, and notes exchanges between Roumania and Greece, Servia and Bulgaria, respectively, concerning status of Koutzo-Vlachs in three latter countries.

Sophia, Athens, and Belgrade informed.

[38344] No. 339.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, August 19, 1913.*

GREEK authorities at Xanthi having notified intention of evacuating that town on morning of 21st August, representatives of British and foreign tobacco companies apprehend danger to interests during period of transition.

We are calling the attention of the authorities here to these apprehensions.

(Repeated to Athens and Sophia.)

[38471] No. 340.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, August 19, 1913.*

SERIOUS destruction of life and property is apprehended in all the places from which the Greeks are withdrawing without awaiting the arrival of any competent authority to replace them.

I am endeavouring to impress on authorities here that responsibility in that case must fall on Greek Government.

Greek and Turkish population of those regions are fleeing in terror, and threaten to set fire to all that they cannot remove.

An encounter between Greeks and 1,600 Bulgarians is reported from Melnic.

(Repeated to Athens.)

[38464] No. 341.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, August 19, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from vice-consul at Dedeagatch has been sent to Constantinople by consul-general at Salonica, but as telegrams to Constantinople are often delayed I repeat to you:

"Greek authorities ordered to evacuate town 21st August. Greek and Mussulman population fleeing. Foreign residents are anxious and demand protection of life and property."

[35878] No. 342.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 256.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 19, 1913.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 685 of the 30th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a collective statement made by the consular representatives of the six Great Powers at Rodosto on the subject of the massacres of Christians committed there by the Ottoman troops.

As regards the suggestion that an international commission should be despatched to enquire into the matter, I have to request you to inform the British vice-consul at Rodosto that the appointment of such a commission to investigate the alleged perpetration of atrocities by the Bulgarian troops has already been demanded by the Bulgarian Government, and that His Majesty's Government have felt obliged to refuse to join in this step because, as charges of a similar nature have been made against the troops of the other belligerent States, their Governments may all in turn demand similar enquiries, which it would be impossible, in fairness, for the Powers to refuse if they had complied with the request of the Bulgarian Government. It has further been pointed out to the Bulgarian Government that, by the time the commission had met and begun its work, no trustworthy evidence of what had taken place would any longer be available, and that, according to the information at my disposal, some of the Great Powers doubt the feasibility of the proposal.

You should point out to Mr. Streater that all the above considerations apply equally to an international enquiry into the events at and near Rodosto, but you may add that I have, nevertheless, instructed His Majesty's representatives at the capitals of the other Great Powers in a despatch*, of which a copy is enclosed, to ask for the opinion of the respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs as to taking action in the sense desired in question.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

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* Not printed.

[37133] No. 343.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie

(No. 516.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 378 of the 18th June, I transmit to your Excellency herewith copies of further correspondence in regard to the seizure by the Hellenic and Bulgarian Governments of Turkish fiscal stamps in the occupied districts.*

I should be glad if your Excellency would again ask the French Minister for Foreign Affairs for an expression of his opinion on the suggestion put forward that the solution of this difficulty should be submitted to the Balkans Financial Commission in Paris.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[37133] No. 344

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 92.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 64 of the 19th June, I transmit to you herewith copy of a memorandum handed to me by the French Charge d'Affaires at this Court.†

You should make to the Hellenic Government representations similar to those which your French colleague has been instructed to make in the sense indicated in this paper.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[37133] No. 345.

Sir Edward Grey to M. de Fleuriau

Sir *Foreign Office, August 19, 1913*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have sent instructions to His Majesty's Minister at Athens to join with his French colleague in making representations to the Hellenic Government on the lines laid down in the memorandum which you were good enough to hand to Sir L. Mallet on the 8th instant in regard to the seizure by the Hellenic and Bulgarian Governments of Turkish fiscal stamps in the occupied districts.

I have the honour to add that on the 18th June last I instructed His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to enquire of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs whether the matter was one which, in the opinion of the French Government, could properly be discussed by the Balkan Financial Commission.

I have not yet received a reply to this enquiry, and have now instructed Sir F. Bertie to recall M. Pichon's attention to the question.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[38483] No. 346.

Sir A. Johnstone to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 112.)

The Hague, August 15, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 34 of the 13th instant respecting officers for the Albanian gendarmerie, I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires called on me to-day and said he had received instructions to convey

* Nos. 168, 344, and 345. † No. 168.

a private hint to the Netherland Government that it would be desirable that the officers should not be Roman Catholics and to inform his British and French colleagues of his Government's wish with a view to their co-operation.

I told M. Oncu that I would refer home for instructions. There could be no hurry, as up to now I understood the German and Italian representatives here were without instructions to join their colleagues in inviting the Netherland Government to lend officers, and the hint would not be conveyed until the Netherland Government had accepted the proposal.

It seemed to me that great care must in any case be taken that nothing leaked out about the proposed action, as if by any indiscretion on the part of the Netherland Foreign Office it became known to our other colleagues it might produce serious consequences.

I called subsequently on the French Minister, and found that he had not referred to Paris for instructions, but I said I hoped he would do so.

I have, &c.
ALAN JOHNSTONE.

[38546] No. 347

Tewfik Pasha to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 20.)

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres,
le 19 août, 1913.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note de votre Excellence datée du 5 août, en réponse à ma communication du 5 août, qui contenait en substance les procédés barbares mis en pratique par les troupes bulgares à l'égard des prisonniers de guerre ottomans se trouvant malheureusement à leur merci.

Le Gouvernement bulgare reconnaît, sans une expression de regret ou de réprobation, que des faits similaires à ceux signalés à l'attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique par mon aide-mémoire du 12 août, se sont en effet produits, et votre Excellence voudra bien se rappeler qu'il s'y agissait de prisonniers de guerre ottomans qui, après avoir été introduits dans la cour d'un hôpital entourée d'une haie en fil de fer, ont simplement et sans motif aucun servi de cible aux balles de la soldatesque bulgare.

A cette monstruosité commise par ses troupes, le Gouvernement bulgare se plaît à donner comme explication que celles-ci étaient obligées d'agir ainsi pour empêcher, soi-disant, ces malheureux de saisir leurs armes.

Or, [illegible] est le prétexte [illegible] par le Gouvernement de Sofia pour excuser en quelque sorte ces barbares [illegible] à l'égard de non-combattants désarmés et sans défense. Ce n'est certes pas à [illegible] qu'il aurait permis aux prisonniers ottomans de conserver les leurs ou de s'en procurer pendant leur captivité. Il s'ensuit donc que ce n'est que pour satisfaire leurs sentiments de haine et assouvir leur soif de sang que des troupes régulières d'un pays "civilisé" ont, en toute quiétude d'âme, fusillé des êtres sans défense.

Après cette constatation malheureuse on ne peut plus mettre en doute qu'une armée animée d'un pareil esprit ait commis et continue à commettre en Turquie les outrages et les actes de vandalisme dont l'accusent, non seulement le Gouvernement ottoman, mais toutes les populations de ces régions, sans distinction de race ni de religion.

Aussi, je ne puis que réitérer à votre Excellence la prière instante que le Gouvernement britannique, qui a toujours eu à cœur la défense des malheureux et des opprimés, veuille bien s'intéresser au sort de ceux qui sont l'objet croissant de la violence et de la sauvagerie bulgare.

J'ai, &c.
TEVFIK

[38949] No. 348.

Note communicated by M. de Fleuriau, August 20, 1913.

LE commandant du croiseur français en station sur la côte d'Albanie a transmis au Gouvernement de la république un télégramme de l'amiral britannique exprimant l'avis que, dans l'état actuel du pays, les pouvoirs de la commission internationale doivent s'étendre aux régions avoisinant Scutari et en rapports habituels de commerce avec la ville. M Pichon a approuvé cette manière de voir.

Ambassade de France, Londres,
le 20 août, 1913

[38948] No. 349.

Note communicated by M. de Fleuriau, August 20, 1913.

L'AMBASSADEUR de Russie a remis hier, 19 avril, à M. Pichon une note concernant la question d'Andrinople et l'avance des troupes ottomanes au delà de la Maritza, dont voici la conclusion :—

"M. Sazonof propose à la Grande-Bretagne et à la France de déclarer en commun à la Sublime Porte que, si elle n'ordonne pas immédiatement le retour des troupes qui ont passé la Maritza, les représentants de la Russie, de la France et de la Grande-Bretagne à Constantinople seront rappelés. M. Sazonof estime que cette décision, si elle est prise par les trois Puissances—indépendamment de l'attitude qui sera adoptée à cet égard par les autres Puissances—sera suffisante pour amener la Sublime Porte à se soumettre immédiatement. Il pense que les trois Puissances pourraient prévenir de leur résolution les autres Puissances pour le cas où celles-ci consentiraient à s'y associer, mais sans faire dépendre de leur attitude l'exécution de ladite résolution."

M. Pichon a répondu qu'il allait se concerter avec le Gouvernement britannique, il a fait observer qu'il s'agissait de faire respecter une décision prise par toute l'Europe et que ce serait donc à toute l'Europe de prendre des mesures à cet effet.

Ambassade de France, Londres,
le 20 août, 1913.

[38957] No. 350.

M. Coromilas to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to Foreign Office, August 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 20, 1913.*

WE learn from Vallona that on Wednesday last a noisy meeting was held there for the prompt solution of the Albanian question. Subsequently the Albanian authorities required of the Orthodox Greeks that they should declare themselves Albanians. They also demanded that the keys of their schools and churches should be given up to them.

It is impossible that such proceedings should be tolerated. The chief of the band Sali Vranitza is carrying on with every violence the disarmament of the Christians, whom at the same time he is pillaging and terrorising.

Following upon my despatches of the 20th July (2nd August) and the 27th July (9th August), I request you to draw the serious attention of the Government to which you are accredited upon these occurrences.

[38602] No. 351.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 350.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sofia, August 20, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 348 of 19th August and Salonica No. 80 of 19th August.

Turks have occupied Kuchukavac after overcoming the small Bulgar garrison.

Bulgarian Government are requesting Greek evacuation generally should be deferred to 28th August, but especially that of Gumuljina Xanthi, and Dedeagatch. (End of R.)

Greeks are suspected here of scheming to hand over directly to invading Turks.

(Sent to Constantinople and Athens.)

[38603] No. 352.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 308.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 20, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 307 of 18th August.

Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this afternoon that he had this morning taken very pessimistic view of situation and had obtained Emperor's consent to recall Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, even should France and England not associate themselves with Russia by taking similar step. Question as to measures to be subsequently taken, such as seizure of Turkish ports, &c., was to be left over for consideration later on. His Majesty had said that question was not one of prestige but of Russia's interests, though loss of prestige would seriously affect those interests.

This afternoon his Excellency received telegram from Russian Ambassador in Constantinople stating that Grand Vizier had told him that reports of Turkish advance on Dedeagatch were unfounded, and that troops had only crossed the Maritza for strategical reasons, as Turkey was in ignorance of Bulgaria's intentions. Grand Vizier had added that orders for their recall would be sent immediately.

M. Sazonof remarked that there would therefore be no need for giving effect to measures sanctioned by Emperor.

[38597] No. 353.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 423.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 20, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from consul-general at Salonica, 19th August :—

"Following from the vice-consul at Dedeagatch :—

"'Greek authorities order evacuation of the town on 21st August. Greek and Mussulman population fleeing. Foreign residents are anxious, and demand protection of life and property. Please inform embassy with a view to protection of British lives and property.

"'(Repeated to Athens).'"

I have no information other than that reported in my telegram No. 418 of 18th August, but the Grand Vizier has informed the French Ambassador that the Turkish troops have not occupied the town of Dedeagatch, and are only in occupation of positions on the west of the Maritza necessary to protect the railway.

(Sent to Athens.)

[38601] No. 354.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 20, 1913.*

MY German colleague, to whom I read first paragraph of Mr. Marling's telegram No. 418 of 18th August, and who has seen the King and the Prime Minister before going on leave, says that they both deny having encouraged a further Turkish advance. Prime Minister said he would telegraph to Sophia suggesting delay of evacuation by Greeks until Bulgarians are ready to replace them.

He had evidently not received similar Bulgarian proposal reported in Mr. O'Reilly's telegram No. 348 of 19th August. French Chargé d'Affaires is instructed to support that proposal in concert with me and Russian Minister.

(Sent to Constantinople and Sophia.)

[38772] No. 355.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 20, 1913.*

THE Bulgarian Government are materially unable to send their troops to reoccupy places now in Greek possession before 28th August, and they have asked the French Government to induce the Hellenic Government to postpone evacuation until that date.

You may support your French colleague.

(Repeated to Sophia, No. 168.)

[38084] No. 356.

Sir Edward Grey to Count de Salis.

(No. 78.,
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 20, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 120 of 17th August: Protection of minorities in territories ceded to Servia and Montenegro, last sentence.

Your action approved.

[38262] No. 357.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 613.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 20, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 307 of 18th August.

I approve your language.

Your Excellency will see from my telegram No. 413 of 20th August to Constantinople that I am of opinion that the representatives at Constantinople should at once put in a joint protest against the Turkish advance beyond the Maritza, and that it should be so worded that all the representatives can join.

[38467] No. 358.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.

(No. 309.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 20, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 137 of 19th August: Representations at Constantinople to stop Turkish advance.

You may give Secretary of State substance of my telegram No. 413 of 20th August to Mr. Marling, which expresses my views.

[38276] No. 359.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 413.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 20, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 420 of 18th August.

You were authorised on 8th August and again on 14th August to join in a representation to the Porte respecting further aggressive action by Turkey against Bulgaria and respecting an advance beyond the Maritza. These instructions would, of course cover consultation with your colleagues.

I am still of opinion that, if all the Powers agree, a strong protest should be at once addressed to the Porte in regard to the advance to the west of the Maritza, and that further delay will render it less effective.

In order to maintain the concert of the Powers, which, in my opinion, is of the utmost importance, it would be better to avoid any proposals which are unlikely to be accepted by all.

(Repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 612, Paris, No. 308, Berlin, No. 308; Rome, No. 239; and Vienna, No. 245.)

[39039] No. 360.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 189.)
Sir *Athens, August 12, 1913.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 112 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a collective note which has this day been addressed to the Greek Government by the representatives of the Great Powers protesting against the preferential treatment of Greek goods on importation into Crete.

Although the communication from the Austrian Embassy, copy of which was enclosed in your despatch No. 84 of the 22nd July, alluded to preferential treatment "en Crète et dans les autres territoires sous l'occupation grecque," the Austrian Minister's instructions, like those of the rest of us, only referred to Crete, and the protest was therefore thus limited.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 360.

Note communicated to Greek Government by the Representatives of the Great Powers.

EN se référant à la circulaire du Gouverneur général de Crète aux autorités douanières de l'île, publiée dans le "Journal officiel" de Crète en date du 4 (17) avril, 1913, et ordonnant, au nom du Ministre hellénique des Finances, que tous les produits de la Grèce doivent être admis en Crète en franchise de douane, les soussignés, Ministres d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande-Bretagne, d'Italie et de Russie, ont été invités par leurs Gouvernements respectifs à protester contre ladite mesure, qui porte atteinte aux droits des Puissances cosignataires.

A. QUADT.
BRAUN.
G. DEVILLE.
F. ELLIOT.
A. DE BOSDARI.
DEMIDOF.

Athènes, le 30 juillet (12 août), 1913.

[38619] No. 361.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 190.)

Sir, *Athens, August 14, 1913.*

I HAVE received from His Majesty's consul at Corfu copy of his despatch to you of the 9th instant on the subject of the proclamation of a state of siege at Corfu, which the Consular Body regard as an infraction of the neutrality of the island secured by convention.

About a fortnight ago, when the Royal decree appeared in the "Official Gazette," I asked M. Coromilas what was the meaning of it. He had no special information, but had no doubt that it had been issued to give the authorities a hold over the Albanian gun-runners and intriguers, of whom there were many in Corfu.

Upon receiving Mr. Raymond's telegram, in which he requested me to convey the views of the French and Russian acting consuls to their respective Ministers, I consulted my two colleagues, and we all agreed that, since the general Greek recruiting law has been in force in Corfu for many years and the island has been used as a base both in the former and the recent Turkish wars without objection on the part of the guaranteeing Powers, it would be illogical to protest against a measure which is in fact one of internal police, and I telegraphed to Mr. Raymond that in our view there was no objection to it.

It will be seen from the last article of the decree that it was to lapse on the termination of the war.

I have, &c.
(For the Minister),
H. D. BEAUMONT.

[38614] No. 362.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 429.)

Sir, *Paris, August 19, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs replying to the communication in which, as instructed by your despatch No. 368 of the 31st ultimo, I acquainted him with the reasons for which British capital did not seem prepared to participate in any scheme for the acquisition of the Top-Hané lands, and with the suggestion that the Quays Company should secure a strip of land along the sea-front which they might develop in the future by the construction of quays. I likewise informed his Excellency of the instructions in regard to the matter which you had sent to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

M. Pichon informs me that the smaller operation suggested is likely to receive the attention of the Ottoman Government, who will not withhold from the Quays Company all assistance in facilitating its success. M. Pichon thinks it preferable, however, so long as the present political situation has not been cleared up, to postpone the presentation to the Ottoman Government of proposals which would ultimately involve the acquisition by the Turkish Treasury of fresh resources.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

Enclosure in No. 362.

M. Pichon to Sir F. Bertie.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Paris, le 14 août, 1913.*

LA lettre de votre Excellence du 2 août m'a mis au courant des difficultés qui s'opposaient à l'adoption de la suggestion contenue dans ma note du 5 juillet au sujet de la constitution entre la Banque d'Angleterre, la Banque ottomane et la Société des Quais de Constantinople d'une société immobilière ayant pour objet l'acquisition des terrains de l'arsenal de Top-Hane. En presence de l'abstention de toute participation des capitaux anglais à une combinaison que, de son côté, la Compagnie des Quais estime être d'une trop grande envergure pour elle, le Foreign Office, d'accord avec

Mr. Lubbock, administrateur de la Compagnie des Quais, envisage comme une solution avantageuse pour la ville de Constantinople, la prise de possession par la Société des Quais d'une bande de terrain de Top-Hané, sur le front de mer et qui pourrait, avec l'agrément du Gouvernement ottoman, être utilisé pour le prolongement éventuel des quais déjà concédés.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que cette opération réduite, dont mon Département ne méconnaît pas l'intérêt, est de nature à retenir l'attention du Gouvernement français, qui ne refusera pas son concours à la Société des Quais pour lui en faciliter le succès; mais, j'estime qu'il est préférable, tant que la situation politique actuelle ne sera pas complètement éclaircie, de différer la présentation au Gouvernement ottoman de propositions qui auraient pour résultat, en dernier ressort, de procurer de nouvelles ressources au Trésor ottoman.

Agreez, &c.
(Pour le Ministre),
PALÉOLOGUE.

[38668] No. 363.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 21.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 20, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, two copies of a telegram dated the 20th instant from Vice-Admiral Burney, relative to affairs in Albania.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure in No. 363.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *August 20, 1913.*

IMMEDIATE reply to my telegram [illegible] as to whether sphere of influence of International Commission is to be absolutely limited to the town of Scutari. Commissioner has just been informed of two murders committed at a village near Scutari, but outside 10-kilom. radius. As Commission has been appealed to, it is most desirable to maintain its authority by sending gendarmes to arrest murderers.

[38849] No. 364.

Memorandum communicated by Tewfik Pasha, August 21, 1913.

LE Gouvernement Impérial s'est vu obligé depuis quelque temps à reparaître le droit à faire accroire à l'Europe que les troupes ottomanes occupent leur propre territoire et cela dans les localités que le Gouvernement lui-même avait décidé de faire occuper lors de la conclusion de la paix ottomane.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ayant à maintes reprises déclaré, notamment par sa note aux Puissances du 19 juillet dernier, qu'il n'avait nullement l'intention d'aller au delà de la zone qu'il s'était tracée dans cette note, et qu'il [illegible] sur la partie ouest de la Thrace. Il est évident, toutefois, que quelques localités présentant une grande importance stratégique pour la défense d'Andrinople et de la ligne ferrée se trouvaient dès le début sous l'occupation des troupes ottomanes. Cependant, malgré les multiples provocations des Bulgares et l'indignation provoquée dans l'armée et toute la nation ottomanes à la suite des massacres systématiques par les Bulgares des malheureuses populations musulmanes abandonnées sans défense à leur merci, le Gouvernement Impérial a maintenu l'ordre au généralissime des troupes ottomanes d'évacuer la rive droite de la Maritza et de restreindre la légitime ardeur de ses officiers et soldats d'avancer en territoire bulgare pour venger les meurtres en masse de leurs compatriotes et coreligionnaires.

Le Gouvernement Impérial continue à s'en tenir à sa première déclaration et donne l'assurance la plus formelle de respecter l'engagement pris par lui dans la note précitée du 19 juillet dernier.

En présence de cette déclaration formelle, il ne reste au Gouvernement Impérial qu'à faire appel aux sentiments de justice et de haute équité de toutes les Grandes Puissances pour les prier d'user de leur influence persuasive auprès du Gouvernement de Sofia afin de le décider à accepter le fait accompli et de faire cesser ces massacres inhumains et barbares, qui ne peuvent qu'envenimer les sentiments des deux peuples limitrophes, en invitant le Gouvernement bulgare à rétablir avec le Gouvernement Impérial des relations normales et régulières permettant enfin l'apaisement dans ces régions et le commencement du développement économique et agricole dans des territoires ravagés depuis si longtemps par les maux de la guerre et les désastres encore plus inexprimables et horribles des extermination en masse.

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres,
le 21 août, 1913.

[38784] No. 365.

Memorandum communicated by Tewfik Pasha, August 21, 1913.

LE Gouvernement Impérial vient de recevoir un nouveau télégramme du généralissime de l'armée Impériale, l'informant que le commandant des troupes ottomanes à Éros vient de lui faire savoir que les Bulgares ont commencé à massacrer les 80,000 musulmans restés à Gumuldjina ainsi qu'à Kirdjali et Férédjik. Le commandant de la gendarmerie grecque, auquel ces malheureux habitants se sont adressés pour demander aide et protection, leur a distribué un certain nombre de fusils. Ces populations affreuses implorent sans cesse le secours et la protection de nos troupes ottomanes, et c'est uniquement pour prévenir les horreurs d'une nouvelle guerre que le Gouvernement Impérial s'abstient malgré lui de remplir un devoir humanitaire. Aussi se croit-il en droit de s'adresser à l'Europe civilisée et d'exiger d'elle d'agir enfin d'une façon énergique et prompte pour mettre un terme à ces actes de férocité des Bulgares, ou bien qu'elle accorde au Gouvernement Impérial le mandat de faire cesser ces boucheries et de protéger les populations musulmanes.

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres,
le 21 août, 1913.

[38841] No. 366.

Note communicated by M. de Fleuriau, August 21, 1913.

LE Ministre français des Affaires Étrangères adhère à la suggestion formulée par le Secrétaire d'État pour les Affaires Étrangères dans sa note du 31 juillet dernier, et tendant à charger les représentants des Puissances intéressées à Constantinople de faire connaître à l'Administration de la Dette publique ottomane que son agent à Durazzo devrait être invité à continuer à user de timbres ottomans et à verser au Trésor les recettes provenant de la vente de ces timbres, malgré les ordres contraires des autorités provisoires albanaises. M. Pichon craint toutefois que, dans la pratique, l'Administration de la Dette ne dispose pas à Durazzo de moyens suffisants pour résister aux demandes du Gouvernement provisoire albanais.

Ambassade de France, Londres,
le 21 août, 1913.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 176.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sinaia, August 20, 1913.*

TWO days ago the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires approached the Minister for Foreign Affairs with a view to supporting request made by the Bulgarian Government that the Roumanian army of occupation should be moved northward, so as to enable the last disposed Bulgarian troops to return to their centres, especially Vratza and Plevna. The Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that the question was ruled by article 6 and article 7 of the Treaty of Peace. Yesterday the Russian Chargé d'Affaires took a similar step.

Vratza has since been evacuated by the Roumanian troops, and, as to Plevna, the King of Roumania yesterday sent orders to General Averesco to take any steps strategically admissible to meet Bulgaria's wishes.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[38747] No. 368.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 309.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 21, 1913.*

IN conversation with French Ambassador and myself this morning Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed disappointment at a telegram which he had received from Russian Ambassador reporting his conversation with Sir L. Mallet on the subject of Turkish advance beyond Maritza, which reflected apparently views expressed in your telegram No. 643 of 20th August. He hoped that it would now no longer be necessary to threaten rupture of diplomatic relations with Turkey, but it was, in his opinion, a great mistake on the part of His Majesty's Government to be so afraid of any separate action on the part of Triple *Entente* for fear of letting Turkey see that Europe was not united. Had England consented to act with France and Russia in the sense suggested by him, the mere threat of rupture of relations would have sufficed. It was, he maintained, very necessary to bring home to Turks fact that Triple *Entente* was a force that had to be counted with.

Speaking of financial pressure to be brought to bear on Turkey with regard to Adrianople, Minister for Foreign Affairs said that communications to be addressed to the Porte on the subject ought to be made in an identic form, as otherwise one or the other of the Powers might tone down its terms. He therefore hoped that Ambassadors at Constantinople would be instructed to concert together so as to secure adoption of an identic text that might be drafted by French Ambassador. He begged us to impress this view on our respective Governments.

[38744] No. 369.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 21, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 115 of 20th August.

Orders have been sent to the Greek commanders not to evacuate until the Bulgarians are ready to take over; but Greek Government hope that that will be by 28th August, as they do not care to act as gendarmes for the Bulgarians nor to be brought into collision with the Turks.

Stories of Greek understanding with the Turks are pure inventions.

(Sent to Sophia and Constantinople.)

[45738] No. 370.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 21, 1913.*

UNDERSTANDING between Greece and Turkey for free passage of shipping on both sides has been arrived at, but little further progress made owing to Turkish demands respecting Vacouf properties and refusal of general amnesty.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[38746] No. 371.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 352.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, August 21, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 348 of 19th August.

Should you authorise military attaché to proceed to Thrace, please inform Bucharest direct.

[38737] No. 372.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) P *Vienna, August 21, 1913.*

I AM informed by Count Berchtold that as the Council of Admirals is of a merely provisional character, the Austro-Hungarian Government consider that it would be inadvisable to send financial experts to Scutari. (See your telegram No. 244 of the 13th August.)

The Imperial and Royal Government could in any case only agree to such a proceeding, in the event of the other Powers insisting on it, if the posts in question were filled by an Austro-Hungarian and an Italian subject.

[38668] No. 373.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 311.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 21, 1913.*

MY despatch No. 512 of 18th August: Extension of jurisdiction of admirals at Scutari.

British admiral reports two murders committed in village near Scutari, but outside 10-kilom. radius. Commission has been appealed to, but has no jurisdiction. It is most desirable to apprehend murderers to maintain authority of the commission.

Inform the Government to which you are accredited, and ask for early reply as to extension of jurisdiction proposed in my despatch.

Reply by telegraph.

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* Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 310), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 246), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 614), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 240), *mutatis mutandis*.

[38849] No. 374.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 416.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 21, 1913.*

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me to-day an *aide-mémoire*, giving me the most formal and categorical assurance that the Porte maintain the declaration contained in their note of 19th July that they have no intention whatever of going beyond the zone indicated therein, and that orders have been sent for the withdrawal of the Turkish troops to the left bank of the Maritza.

You should inform the Grand Vizier that I have received the communication, and that I have taken formal note of it, and you should impress upon him the vital necessity of strictly adhering to the Porte's undertaking.

(Repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 615, Paris, No. 312; Berlin, No. 311; Rome, No. 241, and Vienna, No. 247.)

[38849] No. 375.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 616.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 21, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 416 of to-day to Mr. Marling.

You should inform Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[38468] No. 376.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Reilly.

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 21, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 348 of 19th August.

If the military attaches of all the Powers accompany the Bulgarian forces, the British military attaché may also proceed, unless you see objection.

[38383] No. 377.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 521.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 21, 1913.*

I HAVE received a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Cecil Burney enquiring when he may expect to leave Albania, and pointing out that in his opinion, as the work of the fleet at present there is entirely of a military nature, it would be well that a military officer should be appointed to command the troops with a junior commission to supervise the administration of the town.

I am disposed to share Sir C. Burney's view that his services in Albania are no longer required, and I have to request that your Excellency will suggest to the Government to which you are accredited that the vice-admiral should be authorised to leave Albania as soon as the International Commission of Control is appointed. You should enquire at the same time when the French representative on that body will be appointed and be ready to proceed to Scutari.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

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* Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 266), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 165), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 299), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 211), *mutatis mutandis*.

[37929] No. 378.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Reilly

(No. 122.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 21, 1913.*

THE Bulgarian Minister called at this Office on the 14th instant and was received by Sir L. Mallet. He drew attention to the circular telegram from the Turkish Government, which had been brought to the notice of his Government, in which the Porte state that, owing to the massacre of Turkish soldiers at Stara Zagora, they might find themselves forced to declare war on Bulgaria.

He said that there had been no organised massacre at Stara Zagora; incidents had occurred in the panic consequent on the announcement of the Turkish reoccupation of Adrianople, but Turkish prisoners had, apart from this isolated case, received very good treatment both at Sophia and elsewhere.

The Bulgarian Government, who were now demobilising, found themselves confronted with a threat of war, and it rested with the Powers to prevent this.

Sir L. Mallet replied that communications were passing between the Powers on the subject of making a representation to Turkey, and that I had authorised His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to do this when his colleagues were similarly instructed.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[38844] No. 379.

M. Gennadius to Sir L. Mallet.—(Received August 22.)

Greek Legation, 14, De Vere Gardens, August 21, 1913.

Dear Sir Louis Mallet,

WITH reference to the communication which I had the honour to make to you yesterday, I beg to enclose the translation of a further telegram which I have just received from Athens, and which I am directed to bring to the knowledge of His Britannic Majesty's Government.

Believe me, &c.
J. GENNADIUS.

Enclosure in No. 379.

M. Coromilas to M. Gennadius.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 21, 1913.*

THE Greek headquarters staff had taken measures, immediately after the signature of the Treaty of Bucharest, to evacuate on the day fixed, i.e., the 9th (21st) August, all the territories reverting to Bulgaria, and to make them over to the regular Bulgarian army. But the Bulgarian Government has just addressed to us, through the Russian Legation, the request to continue our occupation of the towns of Xanthi, Gumourtzina, and Dedeagatch up to the 16th (29th) August, on which date it hopes to be able to send regular troops and administrative authorities. We have willingly acceded to this request. Our headquarters staff have given the same instructions in respect to the town of Strumnitza, in case regular Bulgarian troops do not present themselves by the 9th (21st). You will make these facts known. For the last few days efforts are being made at Constantinople to spread the belief in Europe that we were facilitating the Turkish occupation of Thrace. It is beneath our dignity to contradict these fantastic calumnies, which are so little in accord with the uprightness of which we have always given proof. We have collaborated in Bucharest for the re-establishment of peace, and we deem ourselves fortunate in having brought this to a happy issue. We shall carry out the treaty faithfully, and we do not intend to become implicated in the dispute which Turkey has provoked by not recognising the Treaty of London.

[38831] No. 380.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.

Sir, *Board of Trade, August 21, 1913.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th August relative to foreign shipping interests in the waters and harbours of the Balkan States, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state that they concur in Sir E. Grey's proposal to agree to the suggestion of the German Government for an informal discussion of the questions at issue, and that they will be prepared to nominate a representative of this Department to attend the discussion when arranged.

The detailed observations of the Board upon the documents enclosed in your letter under reply will form the subject of a later communication.

I am, &c.
H. LLEWELLYN SMITH.

[38752] No. 381

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.—(Communicated to Foreign Office, August 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *August 21, 1913.*

NOW realised Ottoman Government not responsible for money mentioned in your No. 22.

Clause in contract states that by order of vilayet Government the money was borrowed by Municipal Council, which is responsible for it. First instalment was due last December.

[38781] No. 382.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, August 21, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 80 of 19th August.

Europeans urge that best guarantees for protection of their interests would be presence of European consular officer.

Would you approve of my sending Vice-Consul Morgan to Xanthi until the change of Government is affected?

[38852] No. 383.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Paris, August 22, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 311 of 21st August.

The French Government agree to proposed extension of jurisdiction of the commission, and have so informed the French Ambassador at London.

[38858] No. 384.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 22, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 191 of 7th August.

Prime Minister has informed Italian Chargé d'Affaires that orders have been given to withdraw Servian troops from Oroshi.

(Repeated to admiral, Scutari.)

[38845] No. 385.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 22, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 157 of 21st August.

This morning the Prime Minister raised the question of what is to happen supposing the Turks call on the Greeks to hand over Dedeagatch to them. Would it be possible in that case for an international force to take charge of it?

(Sent to Constantinople and Sophia.)

[38859] No. 386.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 351.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Sophia, August 22, 1913.*

PEACE treaty ratifications signed yesterday, forwarded Bucharest to-day.

[38844] No. 387.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Reilly.

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 22, 1913.*

GREEK Minister states that Greek Government have consented to continue occupation of Xanthi, Gumuljina, and Dedeagatch till 20th August, when Bulgarian Government hope to be able to send regular troops and administrative authorities.

Same instructions have been given as regards Strumnitza in case Bulgarian troops have been unable to reach there by 21st August.

Greek Government deny that they have facilitated Turkish occupation of Thrace.

38781] No. 388.

Sir Edward Grey to Consul-General Lamb.

(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 22, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 83 of 21st August. Despatch of vice-consul to Xanthi. Proposal approved.

[38747] No. 389.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 421.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 22, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 309 of 21st August has been repeated to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, who has been instructed to be guided by last paragraph.

[38384] No. 390.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 313.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 22, 1913.*

INFORM Government to which you are accredited that Major Doughty-Wylie has been appointed to represent Great Britain on the International Commission for the delimitation of the southern frontier of Albania, and ask for the name and rank of their representative. (Latter information is desired in order that our own representative should be given similar rank.)

You should also point out that, as, by a resolution of the Ambassadors' conferences, the commission has to begin work on 1st September, it is desirable to settle at once where they should assemble, and you should suggest Brindisi as a suitable meeting-place since it appears that the Italian Government object to Corfu.

You should at the same time state that Mr Lamb, now His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica, has been appointed British representative on the International Commission of Control in Albania, and ask the name and rank of the representative of the Government to which you are accredited.

* Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 312), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 249), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 619), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 242).

[38747] No. 391.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 422.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 22, 1913.*

SIR G. BUCHANAN'S telegram No. 309 of 21st August. Pressure on Turkey.

You should be guided by last paragraph.

[36566] No. 392.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 300.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 22, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 249 of the 14th ultimo, regarding the annual dotation paid to the late King George of Greece by Great Britain, France, and Russia, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, stating that the French Government concur in the view held by His Majesty's Government as expressed in my above-mentioned despatch to your Excellency.*

I also enclose a copy of the instructions addressed to the British delegate on the International Financial Commission at Athens on the subject,† and request that your Excellency will enquire of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs whether his Excellency will send similar instructions to Mr. Beaumont's Russian colleague.

I am, &c.
W. LANGLEY.

[36566] No. 393.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 524.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 22, 1913.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 416 of the 6th instant, in regard to the annual dotation made to the late King George of Greece by Great Britain, France, and Russia, I have to request that you will inform the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that I am sending to the British delegate on the International Financial Commission at Athens instructions similar to those which his Excellency has addressed to the French representative.

A copy of the instructions to Mr. Beaumont is enclosed herewith.†

I am, &c.
W. LANGLEY.

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* No. 142. † No. 394.

[36566] No. 394.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr Beaumont.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 22, 1913.*

WITH reference to your despatch No 2 of the 7th April last, regarding the annual dotation paid to the late King George of Greece by Great Britain, France, and Russia, I am directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris and of his Excellency's reply on the subject.*

You will observe that I addressed a similar despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, to which, however, I have up to the present received no reply

I am to request that you will act in concert with your French and Russian colleagues when they shall have received similar instructions, in making a communication to the Greek Government in the sense of my above-mentioned despatch to Sir F. Bertie.

I am, &c.
W. LANGLEY

[38875] No. 395.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No 193 Confidential.)

Sir, *Athens, August 16, 1913.*

A DAY or two after receiving from Mr Marling a repetition of his telegram to you No [illegible] of the 11th instant, I told M Coromilas that it had reached my ears that His Majesty King Constantine was favourable to the occupation of Thrace by the Turks, and was encouraging them to take action with that view Speaking from the wholly personal standpoint of a friend of this country, I thought this policy a very mistaken one, as it would inevitably lead to the reopening of questions which it was to the interest of Greece to regard as closed.

M Coromilas who tried hard but unsuccessfully to elicit from me whence I derived my information, said he had received no intimation from the King to that effect, while the Greek Government were not "en contact" with the Turkish Government Ghalib Bey (who has been joined by Resid Bey, "conseiller légiste" to the Porte) is negotiating with him for the resumption of relations, but little progress is being made owing to the excessive pretensions of the Turks with regard to Vacouf properties and other details.

The question of protection and guarantees for the non-Bulgarian inhabitants of Thrace was, he said, a very difficult one. M Venizelos had tried to get a clause providing guarantees, in regard to which he offered reciprocity, inserted in the Treaty of Bucharest, but could not obtain it as he was not supported by the Servians, who dared not admit the Exarchate to privileges in their territories. M Venizelos realised that he could not wreck the whole treaty on this point, and therefore abandoned it. But the necessity for some provision was made evident by what was happening throughout the districts which had been occupied by the Greeks, and are to be restored to Bulgaria. Not only (as I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 151 of the 11th instant) are Greeks and Mussulmans deserting their homes in the coast districts rather than remain under Bulgarian rule, but the same thing is happening in the interior. The King, said M Coromilas, had telegraphed that the revictualling of his troops was impeded by the crowds of refugees escaping from Melnik, Strumnitza, and other places—Greeks, Turks, and even Bulgarians—while no Bulgarian was thinking of leaving the districts in Greek occupation. When a few days ago the Greek troops exterminated the Bulgarian komitaji band of Chakalaroff and Popoff in the Florina district, the Bulgarian villagers came and thanked them for deliverance from an intolerable tyranny. The universal feeling of the population was that, if they could not have the Greeks, they would rather have the Turks than the Bulgarians as their masters.

* To Sir F. Bertie (No. 437), July 14, Sir F. Bertie (No. 416), August 6, 1913.

Both Captain Cauz, of the German, and the Vicomte du Halgouet, of the French Legation who were sent to investigate the stories of Bulgarian atrocities, have come back convinced that they were committed by regular troops and by order.

With reference to Mr. Marling's telegram No. 409 of the 15th instant, reporting the mission of a Greek officer, named Palli, to propose that the Turkish troops should protect the population, I have the honour to state that there are two officers of that name at Head quarters, General Palli, the King's principal personal aide-de-camp, and Captain Palli, a member of his military staff. I am not likely to be able to learn anything about this matter until after His Majesty's return to Athens.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

[38876] No. 396.

Sir F Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 194.)

Sir, *Athens, August 16, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 81 of the 17th April, I have the honour to report that by a ministerial order, dated the 12th instant, kerosene, paraffin, stearine, and all artificial waxy substances and articles made of paraffin and kerosene (article 99 of the Greek tariff), as well as stearine candles (article 101), are excepted from the freedom from duty granted to goods imported from the occupied territories, and subjected to the duties allotted to their respective classes in the Greek tariff, less the 11 per cent. *ad valorem* already paid by them in Turkey.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT

[38860] No. 397

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 353.)

(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Sophia, August 22, 1913.*

BULGARIAN Government have heard that [word undecodable] eighteen Bulgarians condemned to death by court-martial at Salonica as members of Tchernopejef's band are several well-known Bulgarian merchants, including Spiro Sourodjief, Theodore Mazanof, Petro Matof, and brothers Pypercof, most respectable persons who have always opposed Tchernopejef and all revolutionary action Minister for Foreign Affairs asks your intervention at Athens in favour of these persons, pointing out that no Greek executed yet in Bulgaria although many in custody are guilty of crime.

[38999] No. 398

Sir E Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 139.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 23, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 312 of 22nd August acted on

The German representative on the International Commission for the delimitation of the southern frontier of Albania not yet settled. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs hopes to be able to tell me to-morrow the name of the officer chosen. His Excellency has no objection to Brindisi as the meeting place of the commission.

The German representative on the International Commission of Control will be the German consul-general at Trieste.

[39011] No. 399.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 23, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 310 of 21st August.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs states that he is endeavouring to persuade Austrian Government to assent to extension of International Commission of admirals, and that he will let me know the result of his efforts as soon as possible.

Personally he is strongly in favour of extension.

His Excellency said that he had to go carefully in these matters owing to Austrian susceptibilities and their displeasure respecting revision of Bucharest Treaty

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[39012] No. 400.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 23, 1913.*

YOUR despatch No. 266 of 21st August.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is disposed to share your views that vice-admiral's presence will be no longer required as soon as International Commission of Control is appointed and gets to work, all the more that German admiral is equally anxious to get away. But before giving definite answer he would like to know opinion of Austrian and Italian Governments, whom he presumes you are consulting. He seemed to prefer hearing their answer from you to communicating with them on the subject

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[39010] No. 401.

Sir A. Johnstone to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *The Hague, August 23, 1913.*

YOUR despatch No. 34 of 13th August: Albanian gendarmerie.

Representatives of the Great Powers asked Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day if the Netherlands Government would furnish officers.

Minister for Foreign Affairs answered that he would reply shortly, but the ministerial crisis might occasion short delay

From tenour of his remarks, I think Netherlands Government may accede to the request.

[38983] No. 402.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, August 23, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 413 of 20th August to Constantinople: Turkish advance beyond the Maritza.

The Italian Government have instructed their representative at Constantinople to join in protest only if all his colleagues are similarly instructed.

[39018] No. 403.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August 23, 1913.*

YOUR telegrams of 22nd August.

Railway communication is interrupted, but I hope to be able to get through by 2nd September.

I shall have to retain Mr. Morgan to take charge here.

[39019] No. 404.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August 23, 1913*

MY telegram No. 81 of 19th August.

Gumuljina has been duly handed over to the Bulgarian military authorities, and negotiations have commenced with regard to Xanthi. Melnick and Strumnitza have been abandoned and burnt by their inhabitants.

(Repeated to Athens.)

[38737] No. 405.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 250.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 23, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 128 of 21st August. Financial experts for Scutari.

You should inform Austro-Hungarian Government that, in my view, despatch of experts is necessary because British admiral has stated that work of regulating finances of Scutari and keeping accounts has become too heavy for him. Moreover while it is true that commission of admirals is only provisional, some time must still elapse before Commission of Control can take over administration. I am, however, quite indifferent as to nationality of experts, and will accept any decision agreed to by other five Powers, and you should therefore suggest that Austro-Hungarian Government should endeavour without delay to get their own proposals accepted by latter

You should add that I am anxious to withdraw Admiral Burney as soon as possible, but presume I cannot do so till Commission of Control is ready

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[39002] No. 406.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 24.)

[By Post.]

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 23, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 306 of 14th August.

Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that French Government have not hitherto replied in regard to request of International Commission for two financial experts because they were of opinion that, as the Commission of Control was shortly to enter on its duties, it was less necessary and urgent to consider the proposal.

His Excellency states that M. Krajewsky, French delegate on the Commission of Control, is to leave for Scutari to-morrow, and that he will, on arrival there, willingly place himself at Admiral Burney's disposal in order to lend him, in the general conduct of affairs, all the assistance which he may require.

[39470] No. 407

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 24, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 139 of 23rd August: Albanian Delimitation Commission.
Major Thierry, of the General Staff, will be German representative.
Secretary of State would like to know as soon as possible whether all the Powers have agreed to Brindisi as place of meeting, and exact date fixed for Assembly.

[39013] No. 408.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 24, 1913.*

ALBANIA.
Your telegram No. 311 of 21st August to Paris.
Secretary of State has just informed me that Austro-Hungarian Government refuse their assent to extension of jurisdiction of International Commission of admirals. His Excellency said that he was not yet fully aware of reasons for this regrettable decision, and promised me a further communication on the subject.

[39479] No. 409.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 729. Most Confidential.)
Sir, *Constantinople, August 16, 1913.*

I HAVE had an opportunity of reading the report made by Lieutenant von Tschirschky on the tour which, as I reported in my despatch No. 712 of the 12th August, he undertook on the instructions of the German Ambassador through a part of the districts recently reoccupied by the Turks in order to obtain evidence of the excesses alleged to have been committed by them on the Christian inhabitants

Between the 30th July and 2nd August M. von Tschirschky travelled from Bulair to Uzun Kopru and thence by train to Adrianople, having visited on the way the villages of Mahmoudkeui, Mavros, Keshan, Malgara, Bulgarkeui, Lagarkeui, Kalivia, Koreuat, Bovinenskeui, Tantarkeui, Hasskeui, and Doghkeui, and his investigations appear to have been directed to establishing not only the recent misdeeds of the Turks but also the conduct of the Bulgarians during the whole period of their occupation from November to the middle of July last. [illegible] appears to have been carried on entirely free from Turkish influences, and the information largely from Greek notables, merchants, and priests (both Orthodox and Uniat), and at two places from Armenians. But in appraising the value of such evidence it should be remembered that all of it must have been in a greater or less degree biassed against the Bulgarians partly because the whole population, Christian as well as Mussulman, had been abominably oppressed by the Bulgarians and partly also because now that Turkish rule is re-established common prudence would lead such witnesses to make light of Turkish misdeeds. It may be also remarked that there were, so to speak, no witnesses for the defence of the Bulgarians.

The greater part of the report is taken up with Bulgarian iniquities, and while making every allowance for the exaggeration natural in people in the position of the witnesses examined by M. von Tschirschky there can be no doubt that they were guilty of horrible barbarities towards the Moslems while they treated the Christians like slaves and lived on the country. An official Turkish return made just before M. von Tschirschky reached Bulair showed that in the kazas of Keshan, Kadikeui, Merefti (Myriofito), and Sharkeui, forty-nine Moslem villages, with close upon 4,000 houses, were destroyed. M. von Tschirschky does not, however, appear to have an opportunity of verifying these figures, but [illegible] which he obtained goes to show that mosques were defiled and destroyed, villages burnt, men massacred, and women and girls systematically violated. Indeed, towards the Moslems the Bulgarians seem to have behaved in a manner worthy of the hordes of Genghis Khan, while on the Christians they practised the severest extortion and robbery with all the stupid and

brutal arrogance characteristic [illegible] possession of uncontrolled authority. It is not to be wondered at that the whole population, as M. von Tschirschky so often repeats, welcomed the change of rulers. On the other hand, there is nothing in the report to bear out the charge so often made by the Turkish press that the Bulgarians destroyed villages and massacred the inhabitants during the period of their evacuation of the occupied districts.

As for the Turkish excesses, M. von Tschirschky's investigations usually resulted in evidence forthcoming that where a village had been destroyed the inhabitants had been guilty of some act of provocation. For instance, Kalivia was notoriously the headquarters of Bulgarian "komitajis," while at Bulgarkeui Greek inhabitants fired on the Turkish troops as they came to reoccupy the town. His account of the events at Malgara confirm the main features of other descriptions, but as regards the origin of the fire he only quotes the Turkish theory that it was the work of the Christians who desired to frustrate a search for bombs and weapons. As to the victims, he says merely that during the panic caused by the fire some fifteen persons were killed by shooting. He says little of the conduct of the Turkish troops, but it is clear that the destruction of at least Kalivia and Bulgarkeui were the work of a Laz battalion. For the occupation at Adrianople he has nothing but praise. So far as it goes, I can see nothing in the report inconsistent with Mr. Streater's accounts, and the estimate of 200 victims therein given is not far from the 300 at which I should have placed them myself. But on the other hand I think the report gives an unconsciously exaggerated idea of the number of the Mussulmans killed by Bulgarians, though M. von Tschirschky does not give any figures.

Taken as a whole, I consider that M. von Tschirschky's report is as near an approximation to the truth as is likely to be obtained at present. But at the same time it achieves the effect that Baron Wangenheim desires, namely, to have it stated on Turkish evidence, and this has been done on contrasting the misdeeds of the Bulgarians [illegible] exceeding over several months with the excesses committed by the Turks in the few days during which they were masters of the situation. For these atrocities M. von Tschirschky finds excuses, but [illegible] pleas on behalf of the Bulgarians that they were avenging the Turkish misrule and oppression.

I am not aware yet what reports may have been received from His Majesty's Minister as to the alleged massacre by the Bulgarians of 3,000 or more Turkish prisoners of war at Eski Zagora (the report of which I telegraphed to you on the 5th August), but it may perhaps be of interest that I should mention that M. Maschkof, the Russian correspondent of the 'Novoe Vremya,' who recently returned from Adrianople, where he saw some of the survivors in hospital, is convinced of the truth of the story.

M. Maschkof I should perhaps say was recently Russian consul at Uskub, and is now on bad terms with his Government. He is credited with being violently anti-Bulgar in sentiment.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING

[39147] No. 410.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 731.)
Sir, *Constantinople, August 16, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a despatch received from Mr Vice-Consul Palmer relating to a report on the recent massacres of Christians by Turkish soldiery at Bulgarkeui, near Keshan, drawn up, under instructions from his Government, by the Russian vice-consul at the Dardanelles.

Incidentally, Mr Palmer compares this incident with similar crimes committed by Bulgarian komitajis, but he does not mention when or where these [illegible] took place, and it is to be presumed that he alludes to events which occurred when the Bulgarians first took possession of these districts or during the occupation thereof. If these are of recent date, Mr. Palmer's despatch contains the first mention of any atrocities committed by Bulgarians during their withdrawal from these regions.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 410.

Vice-Consul Palmer to Mr. Marling.

(No. 13. Confidential.)
(Extract.)

Dardanelles, August 11, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Russian vice-consul received telegraphic orders some days ago to enquire into the recent massacres near Keshan, and he has visited Gallipoli and Lampsaki.

At the latter place he saw the 500 refugees mentioned in my last despatch.

The salient points of the massacre seem to be the following:—

The Kurds, on entering a village near Keshan called Bulgarkeui, at first behaved fairly well, but after a period of calm they lured the men outside the village on some pretext and there killed them. They afterwards violated the younger women and girls, but spared the old men and women and young children.

These latter were escorted by soldiery to the coast—three days' march without food—and arrived at Bulair in a wretched condition, many of the children being naked.

The military placed them in an empty depôt at Lampsaki, intending to disperse them through the interior where the 400 odd orphans would have been "adopted" and thus assimilated.

This the Russian vice-consul was able to prevent.

Other soldiery besides the Kurds were implicated in these massacres, which, however, do not seem to have equalled the savagery of the Bulgarian komitajis in one village of the same district.

There, after burning the men alive in a hut, they violated the younger women, and afterwards cut off their breasts and left them to die.

Most of the inhabitants of Bulgarkeui were of Bulgarian origin, though there may have been a few Greeks among them, but the Russian Embassy has interested itself actively in the matter.

[39026] No. 411

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 211. Confidential.)

Sir, *Posillipo, August* 17, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that I learn that, in substituting soldiers for sailors with the international garrison at Scutari, the Italian Government have not only made a point of sending a contingent equal in number to that of Austria, but that the men have been carefully selected among troops recruited from Albanian settlements in Italy, and are thus for the most part familiar with the Albanian language. This may in itself seem a perfectly natural proceeding, without any special significance. But it should, on the other hand, also be considered in relation with other evidences of a desire on the part of Italy to preserve Albania as a possible field for the extension of Italian influence. The anxiety manifested here with regard to the territories on the Corfu Channel is hardly sufficiently accounted for by the ostensible reason put forward, that the establishment in these waters of a naval base by one of the Great Powers was a contingency which Italy could not lose sight, because it is obvious that such a danger would not be exercised by the possession of one of the shores by the new Albanian State.

It has, I find, occurred to others besides myself that the real motive of Italy should rather be sought in her anticipations of conceivable future developments in the Adriatic, in the idea that it is not impossible that the Austrian Empire is destined to undergo profound modifications, and that a considerable Slav State may eventually control the north-eastern shores of that sea. In such a contingency Italy might find her opportunity and claim the control of Albania, and therefore it is a postulate of her policy that as many strategic points as possible should be included in the new State.

I have, &c.

RENNELL RODD

[39027] No. 412.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 212. Confidential.)

Sir, *Posillipo, August* 17, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the announcement which you were able to make in Parliament on the 12th instant, recording the positive results achieved in the way of agreement between the Great Powers before the adjournment of the *réunion* of Ambassadors in London, was received here with no little sense of relief that there was at last some glimmer of daylight began to manifest itself in the gloom which had overspread the relations between the French and Italian governments, and that it had at last been possible to find a satisfactory formula for the definition of the situation regarding the Ægean Islands, and because the Italian Government were perfectly well aware that their own attitude had not been altogether consistent, and they had reason to be anxious that this should not become public knowledge in this country.

The attitude of the press has been one of rather mock-heroic self-congratulation, and the principles of Italian diplomacy have been eulogised in terms which recall, perhaps rather unfortunately, the exaggerated terms in which certain sheets in Italy were recently lauding the important victories. This attitude is temperamental, but it has also been significant as indicating the prevalent popular mood as regards France.

Under these circumstances, the following paragraph in an editorial note of the semi-official "Tribuna" of the 14th instant, summing up results of the *réunions*, is a welcome contrast to the egotistical comments of the majority:

"Now that the conference is over, a further matter of congratulation has followed a diplomatic success. The discussions which we have had with France during these last days could not have had such a happy issue if sentiments on the other side of the Alps had entered into them in a spirit of decided hostility. The conversations of the last weeks have, on the contrary, made it manifest that the French Government desire to maintain with us something more than a formal friendship, and that between the two nations there exists a cordiality which, if not as yet completely intimate, has all the potentiality to become so. Our relations with France have been tried in the fire. We are glad to recognise that neither political divergences nor newspaper polemics can modify this characteristic."

On the other hand, the "Giornale d'Italia," after having dispassionately pointed out the importance to Italy of the results obtained in London, seems to have remembered as an afterthought its obligations as the leading Opposition newspaper, and has discovered or invented an eminent diplomatist, who suggests, in a reported interview, that it is premature to talk about successes until it has been ascertained whether the *réunion* of London is ready to recognise that Italy is entitled to material compensation for the prolongation of the war in Cyrenaica and for her civil and military expenditure in the islands, [illegible] by the retention of one or two of these or by [illegible] neutralisation of the coast of Asia Minor. It was the occupation of the islands which was legitimate, which has brought Europe to the point [illegible] diplomatic, which appears to be [illegible] Minister for Foreign Affairs [illegible] the idea of linking [illegible] of the islands to Greece to counterbalance the withdrawal from Southern Albania, [illegible] had fortunately appreciated his own mistake. Another leading article [illegible] number [illegible] to the [illegible] which was laid [illegible] statement [illegible] which Italy [illegible] restore the islands to Turkey [illegible] recalls similar [illegible] with regard to the temporary character of the occupation of Egypt.

The semi-official organs are very severe with the "Giornale [illegible]" and state that no Power has taken the field against Italy, and that it is regrettable that any such attempt should be made to sow the seeds of suspicion in public opinion.

In contrast, the "Stampa" of Turin, a paper which supports the Prime Minister with a consistency which is suggestive, in its issue of the 14th instant sums up the results of the foreign policy of Italy in a full page article of congratulation to her statesmen. It was the Italo-Turkish war which was the moving impulse of the Balkan war, and this has in turn led to results satisfactory to this country. Italy is relieved of any fear of Austria's descending further down the Adriatic; by the creation

of an independent Albania and all causes of friction being removed, her relations with the Dual Monarchy are likely to be more satisfactory in the future. She is assured, now that Servia has a non-Austrian access to the sea, to absorb a great portion of her commerce. Her policy will continue to be one of firm loyalty to the Triple Alliance and firm friendship with the other group of Powers. She has established her right to be heard in the counsels of Europe and has acquired enhanced prestige, and can say both to her Prime Minister and her Minister for Foreign Affairs, "Macte Virtute."

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[39148] No. 413.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 732.)
Sir, *Constantinople, August 18, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Italian cruiser "San Bon," one of the foreign war-vessels stationed here temporarily for the protection of foreigners in case of disorders, passed up the Bosphorus into the Black Sea on the 14th instant. On learning the fact, the Russian Ambassador called on the Marquis Garroni, and in a very friendly way called his attention to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin governing the passage of the straits by foreign ships of war in time of peace, and asked whether the consent of the Sublime Porte had been asked for. The Marquis Garroni replied that he had no idea that in permitting the "San Bon" to enter the Black Sea he would be violating any treaty stipulation; the vessel had been sent out merely to carry out some gunnery-exercises, and he had imagined that the permission of the Porte would be required only for her re-entry into Constantinople, as in the case of an ordinary merchant-vessel. He admitted, however, that he had committed at least a technical breach of the treaty, and he therefore sent the Italian stationnaire to recall the "San Bon," which returned to the Bosphorus on the 17th.

I understand there was some little difficulty in obtaining the requisite firman from the Porte.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

[39029] No. 414.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 214.)
Sir, *Posilipo, August 19, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to my despatch No. 212, Confidential, of yesterday's date, that a note which bears the character of official inspiration has appeared in the "Popolo Romano," repudiating the alleged fictitious character of the plea that Italy could not evacuate her Ægean islands till Turkey had fulfilled her obligations under the Treaty of Lausanne. Opportunity for this repudiation was given by the Opposition "Giornale d'Italia," which published an interview with "a prominent Turkish personality," who was supposed to have said that the only thing to do for the moment is to delay the solution of the whole question as long as possible and keep pressing the fact of the non-observance of the Ouchy treaty by Turkey.

The "Popolo's" reply is as follows:—

"We feel it our duty to protest energetically against this suggestive and malicious declaration of the anonymous Turk. Three days ago we wrote that Italy has no interest in delaying matters, but rather every interest in regulating quickly the situation in Cyrenaica. And, whatever may be said, there is no question of a fiction engendered by Turkey's neglect to fulfil the Treaty of Lausanne or Ouchy, considering that in spite of the treaty, bodies of Turkish troops, commanded by Turkish officers, continue to fight there.

"There can be no doubt of this, because it is impossible to deny the evidence of facts, seeing that in all the more recent battles and skirmishes Turkish troops, commanded by Turkish officers, have taken a noteworthy part, especially in the artillery and other special services.

"And it was only the other day that the same 'Giornale d'Italia,' under a large headline, itself affirmed that 'In Cyrenaica Turkish regulars are still fighting, reporting attacks on an Italian caravan near Benghazi, directed by Turkish regulars.'

We do not know to whom such groundless affirmations and suggestive declarations appeal. We repeat that Italy intends to regularise with the greatest possible expedition the situation in Cyrenaica, as she has already to a great extent done in Tripolitania.

"And we hope that the Turkish regulars will not delay evacuating that province as they have done Tripolitania."

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[39108] No. 415.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 252.)
Sir, *St. Petersburgh, August 19, 1913.*

I HANDED to M. Sazonof yesterday a memorandum embodying the contents of your despatch No. 280 of the 13th instant, on the subject of the action taken by the Greek authorities in the island of Samos in demanding payment to them of sums due by the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt to the Government of the Principality.

As his Excellency said that he was not sufficiently acquainted with the question at issue to say at once whether he would be prepared to instruct the Russian representative at Athens to join his British and French colleagues in making a formal but identic protest against the proceedings of the Hellenic authorities in Samos, I left him with a copy of the draft identic note.

I have, &c.
GEORGE W. BUCHANAN

[39109] No. 416.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 253.)
Sir, *St. Petersburgh, August 19, 1913.*

SINCE writing my despatch No. 242 of the 7th instant, Russia's attitude with regard to the Balkan question has undergone more than one important change. A fortnight ago M. Sazonof was advocating a revision of the treaty of peace then being negotiated at Bucharest, and was urging the Bulgarians to sign it in the hope that modifications would eventually be introduced into it by the Powers in their favour. He was, moreover, persistent in declaring that Cavalla must be assigned to Bulgaria. He has since resigned himself to accepting the treaty as it stands and to dropping the question of Cavalla altogether. This change in his attitude was due partly to the different view taken by the French and Russian Governments of the European situation and partly to the inveterate jealousy and suspicion with which Austria is regarded in this country, and which rendered his Excellency unwilling to march hand-in-hand with her even when there was no direct conflict of interests between the two Governments. The difference of opinion that divided France and Russia on the Cavalla question was, in great measure, due to the fact that it was only at the eleventh hour that M. Sazonof pronounced himself definitely in favour of its going to Bulgaria and then only while he was hesitating between the rival claims of Greece and Bulgaria, the French Government had taken up so decided an attitude in favour of Greece that it was too late for them to adopt the Russian view. The influence of the French Ambassador, who had throughout strongly deprecated the adoption of any course that might possibly lead to international complications, coupled with the publication of the telegrams exchanged between the Emperor William and King Carol, eventually carried the day, and caused M. Sazonof to abandon the cause of the Bulgarians.

The Austrian Ambassador had, shortly after the signature of the Treaty of Bucharest, approached M. Sazonof on the subject of revision, and, though at one moment the latter had not seemed averse to coming to an understanding with Austria on the subject, he now adopted an uncompromising attitude. After the first defeats suffered by the Bulgarians in the war, M. Sazonof had spoken of the Vardar as the eventual frontier, and, though he later on expressed the wish to see Ishtib assigned to Servia, he had persistently declared that Kochana must be Bulgarian. The idea, however, of allowing Austria to impose a modification of the treaty on Servia was repugnant to him, and he therefore told Count Thurn that, as Austria would not restrict revision to the question of Cavalla, she and Russia must part company. Though a unique opportunity was thus lost of placing Austro-Russian relations on a friendly footing, it would have been difficult for M. Sazonof to have acted otherwise in view of the attitude of the French Government and of the position taken up by Germany against revision. The press, in spite of all that it had originally said to the contrary, generally approved of his Excellency's renunciation of the idea of revision, and more especially of his refusal to march hand-in-hand with Austria. It expressed, however, the hope that Russian diplomacy would in the future abstain from making high-flown declarations which it was unable to live up to, and, while deploring the fact that Russia was never likely to have a strong and definite foreign policy, drew the inference from what had happened in the case of Cavalla that Russia would ere long beat a similar retreat in the matter of Adrianople.

From the language held to me by M. Sazonof at the end of last week, his Excellency seemed inclined to leave the question of Adrianople in suspense while he went abroad to recruit his health, and to trust that in the meanwhile the Turks would be starved into submission by financial pressure. As, however, I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 307 of yesterday's date, the news that the Turks have occupied Mustapha Pasha [illegible] has caused him the gravest preoccupation. He spoke as if Russia's patience was exhausted, and even went so far as to say that Turkey, if she was not careful, would end by involving Russia in war. It was impossible, he declared, for Europe to allow Turkey to go on flouting her in this way, and if, as it seemed, Europe no longer existed, then the Triple Entente must act alone. He did not actually put forward any formal proposal, but said that Russia, France and England should break off diplomatic relations with Constantinople. He at one moment declared that time pressed, and that Russia might have to act alone by recalling her Ambassador and by occupying some Turkish port on the Black Sea. His Excellency has so often of late used somewhat similar language when sadly confronted with a fresh crisis that it is impossible to say whether he will follow up his words with acts. The position is, however, a very serious one for Russia, as she cannot allow Turkey to continue to act as she is doing without losing all the little prestige that is left her after the series of checks which she has met with [illegible]. The "Novoe Vremya" is naturally very indignant at the [illegible] but to move a finger to get her way in the regard [illegible], while other Powers have [illegible]. The press in general denounces Turkey's action as a violation of the Treaty of Bucharest, carried out in contravention with Greece, and, while the "Russkoe Slovo" expresses the opinion that Turkey's object is to secure the consent of the Powers to her retention of Adrianople, the "Rech" calls on Europe to go to Bulgaria's assistance.

I have, &c.
GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

P.S.—August 20th. As I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 308 of to-day's date, which was despatched since the writing of the above despatch, M. Sazonof was this morning authorised by the Emperor to recall the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, and to concert with his colleagues as to the measures to be subsequently taken. There can be no doubt, therefore, that Russia was this time really in earnest, and that M. de Giers would have been recalled had not the Turkish Government meanwhile given orders for the withdrawal of their troops across the Maritza.

G. W. B.

[38963] No. 417.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 258.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, August 20, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the special Turkish delegation which is visiting the capitals of Europe with the purpose of establishing the Turkish claim to Adrianople arrived at St. Petersburgh from Vienna on the 17th instant.

The delegation, which consists of seven members, was received on the following day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs by Prince Troubetzkoi, head of the Near Eastern Department, on behalf of M. Sazonof.

The brief record of what took place was published to-day in an official communiqué to the effect that the deputation of residents of Adrianople had been received at the Ministry by Prince Troubetzkoi, who confined himself to informing the delegates that their statements and memoranda would be brought to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
GEORGE W. BUCHANAN

[39090] No. 418.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 301. Confidential.)

Sir, *Berlin, August 20, 1913.*

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs arrived in Berlin yesterday morning from Homburg and sent me a message to say that he would be glad if I would call upon him. I found his Excellency very tired and depressed and much distressed at not being able to go on leave, owing to Herr Zimmermann being obliged to go away on account of ill-health.

Herr von Jagow said that he was much perturbed by the advance of the Turkish troops beyond the Maritza, and that personally he could see no satisfactory way of stopping them should they continue to advance, in spite of the reasonable advice which was being given to them by the Powers. As regards Adrianople, he seemed to think that nothing but force, which as far as he was aware, no Power seemed inclined to employ, would cause the Turks to evacuate that town, but he said that he was as anxious as anyone to stop their present advance and cause them to retire to the left bank of the Maritza. He admitted, however, that for the moment he had no suggestion to offer as to how this could best be done. He then alluded to the proposals put forward by the Russian Government, namely, a collective representation to the Sublime Porte on the part of the Great Powers, a financial boycott, and an injunction to the Ottoman Regie to hand over no funds to the Turkish Government. As regards the financial boycott, he said that he was ready to appeal to the German banks to make no advances to the Ottoman Government and would do his best to prevent any money going from Germany to Turkey, but he reminded me that recent experience had shown how difficult it was to prevent private financial groups from lending money where it was their interest so to do, and of course there was no legal means of forcing abstention. It was, he said, all very well for Russia, whose financial interests in Turkey were practically nil, to propose a financial boycott; but for Germany, and France especially, with their vast financial and economic interests it was a very different matter. Still, if all the Powers were agreed upon the financial boycott, he would do his best. Respecting the injunction to the Régie, he pointed out that the latter was a Turkish institution, and that therefore he entirely failed to see how the Powers could prevent it from paying in funds to the Ottoman Government. He certainly did not see his way to joining in any step in that direction.

He then alluded to the proposal of a collective representation to the Sublime Porte. He told me that he had just talked over that proposal with the Emperor, who had at once said, "And if the Turks pay no attention to it, what then? Either the Powers will find themselves in a ridiculous position or they will have to resort to coercive measures. I will certainly have nothing to do with a blockade of the Dardanelles or

any measure of that kind." His Excellency said that those were also his sentiments; he strongly disliked the idea of coercive measures of any sort, and he, therefore, equally disliked the idea of a collective representation, which, if disregarded, would leave to the Powers no alternative but the employment of force. In fact, a collective step, unless all the Powers were unanimously agreed as to the means of, if necessary, enforcing their views, seemed to him to be a proceeding of doubtful utility and one which, moreover, contained elements of danger. Personally, he thought it preferable that the Great Powers should continue to give moderating advice each on its own account, and that every effort should be made to induce Turkey and Bulgaria to enter into direct negotiations with each other.

Finally he begged me to ask you to be good enough to let him know the views of His Majesty's Government on the Russian proposals.

I have, &c.
W. E. GOSCHEN.

[39093] No. 419.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey. (*Received August 25.*)

(No. 304.)
Sir, *Berlin, August 22, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 301 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I duly communicated to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the substance of the telegram which you addressed to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, No. 413, of the 20th instant.

After thanking me for my communication, Herr von Jagow said that he felt more reassured as to the situation, as it seemed almost certain that the Ottoman Government had resolved to withdraw their troops to the left bank of the Maritza. This decision on the part of the Ottoman Government, if carried out, would, he presumed, render unnecessary any collective step at Constantinople such as had been proposed by Russia.

He then read to me an account of a conversation with M. Sazonof, which he had just received from the German representative at St. Petersburgh. In this conversation M. Sazonof stated that he had received the most solemn assurances from the Grand Vizier, through the Turkish Ambassador, that the Turkish troops would be at once ordered to retire to the left bank of the Maritza; that he had expressed his satisfaction at this communication, but that he had informed the Turkish Ambassador that, unless those orders were carried out very soon, Russia would be compelled to occupy some portion of Turkish territory. At the same time, M. Sazonof gave the German representative an assurance that, should circumstances compel Russia to carry out this threat, the occupation would be only temporary, and only last until the orders of the Grand Vizier had been carried out.

Herr von Jagow did not seem to attach very much importance to the Russian threat, as he considers that everything now points to the retirement of the Turkish troops from their advanced positions.

Nor did he attach much importance to a further statement on the part of M. Sazonof to the effect that he still held to the proposal of a financial boycott as a means for compelling the Turks to evacuate Adrianople. Herr von Jagow reminded me that, up to a certain stage of the war between Turkey and the allied Balkan States, the Russian Government had maintained the standpoint that Adrianople should not pass into the possession of Bulgaria. It was consequently unlikely that they should now hold very strong convictions as to its future ownership. Therefore he felt that, in talking of a financial boycott to compel the Turks to evacuate Adrianople, M. Sazonof's true object was to conciliate public opinion in Bulgaria, and that, having thus made a show of good-will to Bulgaria, he would, in view of the indifference of other Powers, after a decent interval, allow the idea of the financial boycott to drop quietly out of sight. The really important point was the retirement of the Turkish troops to the east of the Maritza, and, if now, as seemed most probable, the promises of the Grand Vizier were promptly fulfilled, he hoped that the relief felt would incline the Powers to interfere as little as possible in the question of the future of Adrianople, and leave it to be settled by direct negotiation between the Ottoman and Bulgarian Governments.

The following telegram from Berlin was published in this morning's issue of the "Cologne Gazette." It would seem to be very much in accordance with the views expressed by Herr von Jagow:—

"Berlin, 21st August.

"The hope expressed yesterday that Turkey would consent to put a stop to the movements of her troops on the far side of the Maritza appears likely to be realised. The Porte has apparently already ordered the retirement of the advanced divisions. If, as a result of this alteration in the attitude of Turkey, Bulgaria sees that the inviolability of her territory is recognised, the Great Powers may regard the prevention of further aggression as a success due to their action at Constantinople. The withdrawal of the Turkish troops from Bulgaria has resulted in a timely and desirable *détente*. The question of the future of Adrianople is indeed not yet solved thereby. No Power appears to consider it desirable to reconquer the city for Bulgaria by force of arms. The only course now open is to continue to take diplomatic action, possibly in conjunction with negotiations between Bulgaria and Turkey."

I have, &c.
W. E. GOSCHEN

[39158] No. 420.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August 25.*)

(No. 434.)
Sir, *Paris, August 23, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, with reference to my telegram No. 112 of the 22nd August, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replying to the communication which I addressed to his Excellency under the instructions conveyed to me by your despatch No. 512 of the 18th instant, informs me that the French Government approve the proposal of Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to extend the powers of the International Commission of Admirals to the district surrounding the town of Scutari. M. Pichon adds that the French Ambassador in London and Capitaine de Vaisseau Pivet, French delegate on the International Commission, were informed in that sense on the 21st instant.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE

[39159] No. 421.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August 25.*)

(No. 435.)
Sir, *Paris, August 23, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you with the receipt of a communication from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replying to the note in which, as instructed by your despatch No. 502 of the 13th instant, I communicated to him the draft of the formal protest which His Majesty's Government were desirous should be addressed to the Greek Government by the French, Russian and British representatives at Athens in regard to the [illegible] of the Greek authorities [illegible] concerning the payment to them of sums due by the Ottoman Public Debt Administration to the Government of the principality. I acquainted his Excellency at the same time with the instructions which you had given to His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh in regard to the matter.

M. Pichon informs me that the French Government agree to the terms of the proposed collective note, and that the French Minister at Athens, to whom a copy of its text has been communicated, has been directed to concert with his British and Russian colleagues with a view to making the proposed collective representation. M. Pichon adds that M. Deville's attention has been drawn to the advisability of inserting in the text of the note a reservation in regard to the defence of the interests of the Ottoman Public Debt in the event of the *fait accompli* at Samos being recognised by the protecting Powers.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE

[39161] No. 422.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 437.)
Sir, *Paris, August 23, 1913.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch No. 503 of the 13th instant, I enquired as to the views of the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the advisability of taking any action on the statement drawn up by the consular officers of the Six Great Powers at Rodosto with regard to the responsibility of the Turkish authorities for the massacres which have taken place there.

I have the honour to acquaint you that M. Pichon informs me that up to the present the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs have no knowledge of this document, but that upon its receipt his Excellency will not fail to examine it and to communicate to me his views as to the action which should be taken thereon.

I beg leave to enquire whether it would be desirable, for the sake of convenience, for me to communicate to his Excellency a copy of the document in question.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

[39062] No. 423.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August 24, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 23rd August.

Xanthi also appears to have been regularly handed over to the Bulgarians. Greek population fleeing, but some of the Turks have remained.

(Repeated to Athens.)

[39313] No. 424.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Posillipo, August 25, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 242 of 22nd August.

Italian representative on Southern Boundary Commission will be Signor Labia, consul, formerly at Janina; representative on International Commission of Control, Commendatore Leoni, consul-general in Corsica, formerly at Scutari.

Brindisi is preferred as meeting place, Corfu presenting difficulties. Delegates should be there 30th August or 31st August at the latest when they will probably be sent to Sant. Quaranta in gunboat.

[39315] No. 425.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Posillipo, August 25, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 237 of 14th August and your despatch No. 208: Albania.

The Italian Foreign Office promise written answers shortly on both points. Italian Government appear at present opposed to both proposals, though they would no doubt agree if six Powers do so. As regards financial experts, if absolutely necessary, they would prefer Austrian and Italian to French and German, but think assistance could be provided from officers on spot. They contend that no desire for extension of Scutari area has been expressed by the Albanians, and that, as International Commission is being named, it is unnecessary to extend the powers of the temporary one. They consider that by the time that experts could be selected, arrive, and learn local conditions they would be no longer required.

[39321] No. 426.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Posillipo, August 25, 1913.*

YOUR circular telegram of 9th August: Preferential treatment of Greek goods in Crete.

Italian Minister at Athens has again been authorised to sign joint protest if all his colleagues receive similar instructions.

[39316] No. 427.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 314.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, August 25, 1913.*

YOUR circular telegram of 21st August.

Russian Government agree with view expressed in your despatch No. 291 that jurisdiction of the International Commission of Admirals should be extended to the country surrounding Scutari pending the establishment of European Commission of Control in Albania.

[39318] No. 428.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 315.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, August 25, 1913.*

YOUR circular telegram of 22nd August.

Aide-mémoire of the Russian Government states that Colonel Goudim-Levkovitch, Russian military attaché at Athens, has been appointed Russian delegate on the International Commission for delimitation of the southern frontier of Albania.

The Russian Government propose to appoint M. Petrunof, at present Russian consul at Monastir, to be the Russian consul-general in Albania and Russian representative on the International Commission of Control.

The Russian Minister at Athens has been requested to instruct Colonel Goudim-Levkovitch to proceed without delay to the meeting place fixed for the assembling of the delegates. The Russian Government have no objection to the selection of Brindisi, and would be glad to be informed as soon as possible when the above-mentioned town has been agreed to by other Powers.

[39322] No. 429.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Vienna, August 25, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 240 of 22nd August.

Austrian Government have appointed M. Bilinsky, consul-general at Janina, to be their representative on International Commission for delimitation of Albanian southern frontier. As regards meeting place, they are asking Italian Government whether Brindisi would suit.

Austrian Government have not yet selected their representative for Commission of Control.

[39319] No. 430.

Mr O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 354.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, August 25, 1913.*

BULGARIAN Government learn that Turks have occupied Kirjali, and that Bulgarian garrison has retired from Gumuljina before the advance of Turkish troops, which are believed to be now in occupation of that place also.

All military attachés have now been authorised to accompany Bulgarian reoccupation, but in view of above news it is uncertain when or whether it will be attempted.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[39635] No. 431

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 424.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 25, 1913.*

THE Bulgarian Minister states that Turkish troops are in occupation of Kirjali. This information may be out of date, but please ascertain, for if the Turks are still there it is not in accordance with the Grand Vizier's undertaking that the troops would be withdrawn immediately east of the Maritza.

[38860] No. 432.

Sir Edward Grey to Consul-General Lamb.

(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 25, 1913.*

BULGARIAN Government have asked our intervention at Athens in favour of Spiro Strujief, Todor Mastanof, Petro Matof (or Masharof), and two brothers Piperkof, condemned to death by Greek court-martial at Salonica, among eighty persons, as koanta, s of Chernopeef's band.

Bulgarian Government state that these five persons are respectable merchants resi ng at Salonica, who have always opposed Chernopeef and all revolutionary action.

Please report whether facts are as stated, and whether, in your opinion, character of five persons is such as to make it possible or desirable for us to mention matter unofficially at Athens.

(Repeated to Sophia, No. 174, and Athens, No. 118, for information.)

[39203] No. 433

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 302.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 25, 1913.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called at this Office on the 19th instant and informed Sir L. Mallet that he was instructed to suggest that the representatives of the Triple *Entente* at Constantinople should threaten the Porte with their withdrawal unless the Turkish Government abstained from sending troops across the Maritza. The three representatives should inform the representatives of the Triple Alliance of their instructions, but should not desist from withdrawal if the representatives of the Triple Alliance remained.

The French Chargé d'Affaires had already informed Sir L. Mallet that M. Etter was instructed to make this proposal and had expressed agreement with the latter's view that it would not achieve its object, but merely divide the Powers and strengthen the Porte.

Sir L. Mallet told M. Etter that he would refer the points to me at once, and that he knew that I was most sincerely desirous of assisting the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Sir L. Mallet added that his own view was that the first thing to do was to put in a protest against the aggression of the Turks beyond the Maritza without loss of time,

and that unless all the Powers made a threat of withdrawal the hands of the Porte would merely be strengthened.

I entirely share the opinion expressed by Sir L. Mallet to M. Etter, but, in view of the fact that the Turkish Government have now announced their intention of withdrawing their troops from beyond the Maritza, it is unnecessary for your Excellency to mention the matter to M. Sazonof unless it is raised again.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[38771] No. 434.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 265.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 27, 1913.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 397 of the 8th instant, I have to inform you that the Turkish Ambassador called on the 20th instant to communicate two notes, copies of which are enclosed.

His Highness declared to Sir L. Mallet, who received him, that the Bulgarian komitajis were pillaging and murdering all over Thrace, and that M. Nachevitch, the Bulgarian special representative in Constantinople, had admitted that this was true, but had said that the Bulgarian Government had nothing to do with it.

Sir L. Mallet replied that he would not discuss the question of outrages, as His Majesty's Government had received statements containing similar accusations from every Balkan State, not believed them all to be true, but he would call His Highness's attention to the reports which were arriving, of the advance of the Ottoman troops across the Maritza and the reoccupation of Demotika, Sufli, and even Dedeagatch. These telegrams were causing great disquietude, and if they were not true it would be well that the Porte should contradict them and so remove at once their intentions of not advancing beyond the Maritza.

His Highness said that he felt perfectly certain that the Porte meant to maintain their attitude and abide by their public announcement of the 18th July. They did not mean to cross the Maritza and occupy permanently any of that portion of Thrace. He promised to telegraph at once to Constantinople and find out what the intention was.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

Enclosure 1 in No. 434

Tewfik Pasha to Sir Edward Grey.

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres, le 19 août, 1913.

M. le Secrétaire d'État,

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note de votre Excellence du 13 courant, relative aux incidents de Rodosto et de Malgara, et télégraphié à mon Gouvernement pour le prier de me faire connaître en détail le résultat de l'action criminelle intentée contre les fauteurs et instigateurs des troubles.

Dans la réponse qui m'a été transmise il est dit que le procès du nommé Hadji Chérif suit son cours et que, en dehors de ce prévenu, les individus dont les noms sont indiqués ci-dessous ont été reconnus coupables et condamnés aux peines suivantes :—

Le nommé Djanbazoglou Youssouf, de Rodosto, à la peine capitale par contumace ; Azizoglou Topal Ali, à quinze ans de travaux forcés ; le maître d'école Ahmedoglou Salih, à douze ans de travaux forcés ; Ismailoglou Behaeddin, à six ans de travaux forcés ; Salihoglou Moustafa à cinq ans de travaux forcés ; le nommé Ramin du village d'Inédjik, de Rodosto, à la peine capitale ; et les nommés Adem, Mostafa et Fahri Nazo à dix ans de travaux forcés.

Cinq individus seuls ont été reconnus non coupables et relâchés.

Ces condamnations prononcées par les tribunaux indiquent suffisamment que chaque fois que des troubles ont lieu dans une localité quelconque de l'Empire, le Gouvernement Impérial ne manque pas de donner des ordres les plus sévères pour l'arrestation

immédiate et la punition des coupables, et qu'aucun n'échappe à l'action de la justice si sa culpabilité est reconnue par les tribunaux ou les cours martiales instituées à cet effet. Cette constatation s'impose, parce que malheureusement, au sud du Gouvernement Impérial, aucun Bulgare reconnu coupable de crimes et d'atrocités contre les populations musulmanes, n'a jusqu'à présent été arrêté ni jugé par les tribunaux de son pays.

J'ai, &c.
TEVFIK

Enclosure 2 in No. 434.

Tewfik Pasha to Sir Edward Grey.

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à Sir E. Grey, et pour faire suite aux deux aide-mémoire qu'il a déjà eu l'honneur d'adresser à son Excellence au sujet des atrocités commises par les Bulgares sur les musulmans qui se trouvent sous leur domination, s'empresse d'informer son Excellence que malheureusement la série des massacres et les outrages continue de plus en plus et provoque au plus haut degré l'indignation de tout le peuple ottoman. En dehors des faits relatés dans les deux aide-mémoire précités, les nouvelles informations officielles parvenues tout récemment encore au Gouvernement Impérial, signalent que les troupes et les bandes bulgares profitent de la retraite de l'armée grecque pour massacrer, à partir de Gumuldjina jusqu'à Férédjik, tous les musulmans qui, ayant été convertis de force au christianisme par les Bulgares, avaient profité de l'occupation provisoire hellénique pour faire retour à leurs premières convictions religieuses. Malheureusement, les moyens dont dispose le Gouvernement Impérial sont insuffisants pour empêcher ces pauvres habitants musulmans d'être victimes de ces boucheries horribles.

D'autre part, la population grecque de ces régions, malgré les recommandations des officiers hellènes, ne trouve son salut qu'en se sauvant vers Dédéagatch. Ces officiers ont même déclaré au commandant des troupes ottomanes à Sofoulou que dans la seule nuit du 1er août, les habitants musulmans du nord de Gumuldjina ont été massacrés par les Bulgares.

Ces faits monstrueux ne peuvent manquer de provoquer l'indignation du monde civilisé, et c'est avec nouvelle instance que le Gouvernement Impérial sollicite de nouveau la haute et puissante intervention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique en vue de prendre les mesures qu'il jugera les plus opportunes et efficaces pour mettre la Bulgarie en demeure de cesser enfin ces crimes, qui soulèvent d'horreur la conscience humaine.

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres,
le 19 août, 1913.

[38483] No. 435.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Johnstone.

(No. 38.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 25, 1913.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 112 of the 15th instant, relative to the engagement of Netherland subjects as officers in the gendarmerie which is about to be organised in Albania.

You are authorised to join with your French colleague and with the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in conveying to the Netherland Government a private hint that the selection of Roman Catholic officers for this service would be undesirable.

I am, &c
E. GREY

[37451] No. 436.

Foreign Office to Treasury

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 25, 1913.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to transmit to you herewith copies of the draft reports of the three sub-committees of the International Commission for the settlement of the financial questions arising from the late war in the Balkans,* together with the draft of a despatch which Sir P. Harvey, the British delegate, proposes to address to Sir E. Grey, submitting his observations on the questions involved.†

Sir P. Harvey states that he is not in a position to forward these reports to this Office officially till they have been examined and approved by the delegations of the Powers represented on the Commission.

He observes, however, that no material modifications are likely to be made in the reports, and points out that, if His Majesty's Government are denied the opportunity of examining them till they are adopted by the delegations, there will be but little time for their consideration and the necessary exchange of views with the other Powers before the Commission reassembles on the 30th proximo.

Sir P. Harvey therefore forwards these papers unofficially, and I am to state that Sir E. Grey would be glad, in the first place, to receive any observations which the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may have to offer with regard to them.

I am to ask that the three draft reports of the sub-committees may be returned with your reply, as there are no other copies of them in the possession of this Office.

I am, &c.
W. LANGLEY.

[39330] No. 437.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 196.)
Sir, *Athens, August 19, 1913.*

YESTERDAY King Constantine made his entry into his capital on his return from two successful campaigns. It had been His Majesty's wish not to have a triumphal reception until he could share it with his devoted and victorious army, the return of which is delayed by the precautions being taken against cholera, and the people were not to be teased, and the Commander-in-Chief to give way to their impatience.

His Majesty arrived in the afternoon on board the 'Averoff,' escorted by the greater part of the Greek fleet, and anchored in Phalerum Bay, where a number of the merchant ships which have been used as transports were drawn up, as well as the two Turkish torpedo boats which have been recovered from the sea, and the old wooden sailing brig "Ares" which took part in the war of independence in 1821. His Majesty was accompanied by his two sons, and was met at Phalerum by the other Princes, who had preceded him from Salonica by a few days, and by Her Majesty the Queen.

He was greeted on the pier by the Council of Ministers, headed by M. Venizelos, who by dint of extraordinary exertions had managed to return from Belgrade a few hours before the King's arrival. Dense crowds of people had come from the capital and the Piræus, but from far and near, lined the shore. The frantic demonstrations by clapping of hands was abandoned on this occasion in deference to the expressed desire of the King, whose slightest wish is at this moment law to his people, and gave way to more decorous and much more effective cheering.

From Phalerum the King, the Queen, and the Crown Prince proceeded to Athens by motor-car, changing on the outskirts of the city into a Daumont, in which they passed slowly through the streets, gaily decorated, thronged with cheering crowds, lined by the 17,000 troops of the garrison—recruits and territorials who have seen no active service—and ornamented at intervals with trophies of Turkish and Bulgarian guns. Close to this legation a stand had been erected for the accommodation of 1,500 wounded, whom the King and Queen saluted, standing up in their carriage. They were answered by a roar of *Ζήτω ὁ κουμπάρος! Ζήτω ὁ Βουλγαροκτόνος!* "Koumbaros" is the King's pet name in the army since he invited it to stand collectively godfather to his youngest daughter. It is untranslatable, but expresses

* Three draft reports. † Draft despatch from Sir P. Harvey to Sir E. Grey.

the relationship (regarded as a real one in the Orthodox Church) between a godfather and the parents or near relatives of the godchild. The epithet "Slayer of Bulgarians," which is coming into general use was first applied to the Emperor Basil. It occurs to no one to glorify King Constantine with the title of "Slayer of Turks."

After a short and impressive ceremony at the Cathedral their Majesties went, again in procession, to their Palace, and thence by motor-car to Tatoi. The hardly-repressed emotion of the King and the radiant happiness of the Queen were the subject of universal remark.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[39331] No. 438.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 197.)

Sir, *Athens, August 20, 1913.*

I HAD a few moments' conversation with M. Venizelos at the Cathedral before the *Te Deum* the day before yesterday. He was jubilant over the result attained at Bucharest. I, however, told him that he must expect disappointment in other directions, and that he must regard Korytsa as definitely lost. I pointed out that considerable concessions of Albanian territory had been made to Servia in the north-east, and that Austria insisted on this compensation in the south-east. He rejoined that it did not seem fair that Greece should have to suffer for what was done in a region which did not concern her—a remark which I could not help mentally applying to the suggestion foreshadowed in your despatch to Sir F. Cartwright No. 155 of the 31st July that the final destination of the islands ceded by Italy to Turkey might be connected with the fate of Adrianople.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[39481] No. 439.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 51.)

Sir, *Cettinjé, August 21, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 120 of the 17th August, relative to the protection of the Moslem and Catholic Albanian populations in the territories ceded to Montenegro, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the collective representation made by the representatives of the Powers on the 16th August and of the reply of the Montenegrin Government received to-day.

The reply states that the minorities in question will enjoy the same rights and will have the same duties as the Serb-Orthodox citizens of the kingdom. These rights are guaranteed by the Constitution, which prescribes, at the same time, the same duties for all citizens without distinction of race or religion.

I have, &c.
J. DE SALIS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 439.

Note communicated to the Montenegrin Government by the Representatives of the Powers.

Il est indispensable de prendre d'urgence des mesures pour assurer la protection efficace des populations albanaises musulmane et catholique dans les territoires cedés au Monténégro et à la Serbie. Nous ajoutons comme interprétation que dans le futur traité de paix il sera confirmé que les garanties prévues par les articles 27, 30 (les deux premiers alinéas), 35 et 39 (premier alinéa) du Traité de Berlin restent en vigueur. Il est expressément entendu que les garanties s'étendent également au profit des Albanais au libre usage de la langue albanaise pour l'enseignement scolaire et pour la publication des livres et des périodiques.

(Commentaire confidentiel verbal)

L'usage des libertés concédées aux minorités est subordonné au droit commun applicable à tous les sujets serbes et monténégrins.

Cettigné, le 16 août, 1913.

Enclosure 2 in No. 439.

Reply to Note of Representatives of Great Powers.

LES minorités musulmanes et catholiques dans les nouveaux territoires conquis par le Monténégro jouiront de tous les droits et auront les mêmes devoirs que les autres citoyens serbes-orthodoxes du royaume.

Ces droits leur sont garantis par la Constitution du pays, qui prévoit en même temps les mêmes devoirs pour tous les citoyens, sans distinction de race et de religion.

De tout temps le Monténégro a montré qu'il était un des pays les plus tolérants de l'Europe envers les minorités et il ne démentira jamais son beau passé.

Cettigné, le 21 août, 1913.

[39332] No. 440.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 91.)

Sir, *Sophia, August 22, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with the provisions of article 2 of the Treaty of Bucharest, the following have been appointed by the Roumanian Government as members of the Mixed Commission charged with the delimitation on the spot of the new Roumano-Bulgarian frontier:—

M. Nemtzesco, deputy, former Minister of Commerce; M. N. Tatulesco, deputy, professor at the University; General George Janesco, Director-General of the Military Geographical Department; Lieutenant-Colonel J. Pavalesco; and Major Victor Scheicariu, of the Military Geographical Department.

A copy of this despatch is being sent to Sophia.

I have, &c.
COLVILLE BARCLAY.

[39326] No. 441.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 26.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 25, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated the 24th instant, from Vice-Admiral Burney relative to Albanian affairs.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure in No. 441.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *August 24, 1913.*

HIS Majesty's Minister at Belgrade informed by telegraph as follows:—

"If Servian troops will retire beyond the Black Drin, Merdites have given absolute assurance they will not be attacked or molested, and, if they wish, will send tribesmen as escort and as protection against attacks from Mussulmans as they retire."

[39327] No. 442.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 177.)
(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Sinaïa, August 25, 1913.*

EXCHANGE of ratifications of Treaty of Peace took place to-day at Bucharest

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[39466] No. 443.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 198.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 26, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 197 of 22nd August.

I am informed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that the Servian troops withdrawn from Oroshi are remaining on the west bank of the Black Drin pending the delimitation of the frontier and to prevent incursions. The Prime Minister has, however, given my Italian colleague assurance that the frontier, when drawn, will be respected.

(Sent to the admiral at Scutari.)

[39468] No. 444.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Paris, August 26, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 313 of 22nd August.

The French Government agree that Brindisi would be suitable meeting place for Albanian Delimitation Commission, and will appoint their representative very shortly.

M. Krajewsky, consul of the second class, at present acting as French consul at Scutari in Albania, will be French representative on International Commission of Control in Albania.

[39471] No. 445.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 26, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 143 of 24th August. Extension of jurisdiction of admirals at Scutari.

Memorandum received from German Minister for Foreign Affairs states that, in opinion of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, extension is unnecessary in view of fact that London decisions in regard to establishment of International Commission of Control and appointment of Dutch gendarmerie officers will, in any case, shortly be carried out.

The two murders committed in neighbourhood of Scutari, but outside the 10-kilom. zone, are, in opinion of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, isolated incidents which do not afford adequate ground for proposed far-reaching measure. Cabinet at Vienna gather from reports they have received that situation in Albania as regards security has improved in a surprising manner as compared with the past, and that peace and order are already comparatively satisfactory in territories already evacuated by Servia and Greece.

German Minister for Foreign Affairs adds that, in view of this attitude of Austrian Government, he also cannot adhere to your proposal.

[39319] No. 446.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Marling.

(No. 431.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 26, 1913.*

MR. O'REILLY'S telegram No. 354 of 25th August.

Please ascertain whether this information about Gumuljina is true.

[39469] No. 447.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 314.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 26, 1913.*

THE Bulgarian Government complain that the Turkish forces occupy Kirjali and are advancing on Gumuljina, which the Bulgarian forces have had to abandon. I am making enquiries, and if true, energetic representation will be necessary, in which I hope all the Powers will join.

(Repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 629; Constantinople, No. 430; and Sophia, No. 175.)

[39625] No. 448.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.†

(No. 315.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 26, 1913.*

AS all the Powers agree to Brindisi, the British delegate will be instructed to be there on 1st September. Express hope that similar instruction will be given to French delegate.

[39161] No. 449.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 532.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1913.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 437 of the 23rd instant relative to the recent massacres at Rodosto and in its neighbourhood, and I approve the suggestion, made in its last paragraph, that you should communicate to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of the statement drawn up by the consular representatives of the Six Great Powers, which has not reached the French Government.

I am, &c.
E. GREY

[39510] No. 450

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Salonica, August 19, 1913.*

THE Greek authorities appear to have been instructed to evacuate all the territory in their occupation, which is ceded to Bulgaria under the Treaty of Bucharest, on or before the 22nd instant, whether or no there may be any other authority ready to take their place.

* Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 313), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 251), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 241).
† Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 314), Sir R. Rodd (No. 245), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 630), and Sir F. Cartwright (No. 252), *mutatis mutandis*.

Remembering what has occurred under similar circumstances during the late war, whenever districts of mixed population have been left without the protection of any constituted authority, the inhabitants of this territory, which includes the considerable towns of Dedeagatch, Gumuldjina, Xanthi, and Stroumnitza, and several less important townships, such as Novrocop and Melnik, have been seized with panic.

A general exodus of the Greeks and Turks has already commenced, the fugitives flocking into Cavalla, Drama, and even Salonica with everything portable that they can bring away. The rural population is reported to be burning its unthreshed harvest and all stores of fodder and provisions that may be left, and in some cases even their houses. Meetings have been held in Xanthi and elsewhere, at which the hotter-headed citizens urged their fellows to allow nothing to fall into the hands of the national foe. Under these circumstances the apprehensions of the calmer element and of the representatives of neutral interests may easily be understood.

Last night several of my colleagues and myself received a telegram from the representatives of the foreign establishments in Xanthi, including the Régie, the Banque de Salonique, the American Tobacco Company, the Commercial Company of Smyrna, Messrs. N. Mayor and Co., and several Austrian and German firms engaged in the tobacco trade, of which the following is a translation:

"The Hellenic authorities have officially announced and have directly notified to foreign subjects and foreign establishments in existence here that the Greek army and authorities will evacuate the town on the morning of Thursday, the 8th (21st) instant.

"In that case our town will remain without constituted authority, and we urgently beg you to take the necessary measures for the protection of our property and lives against the dangers to which they are exposed."

Though holding that the fears of the signatories were probably exaggerated, I considered that the danger to the very important foreign interests in Xanthi was sufficiently real to warrant me in bringing the facts to your notice, and at the same time calling the serious attention of the Greek authorities to the responsibilities they must, in my opinion, incur if any destruction of life or property occurred in consequence of their having abandoned the town before any other competent authority were ready to substitute itself for that which they withdrew. I therefore sent you my telegram No. 80, which I repeated to His Britannic Majesty's Legations at Athens and Sophia. In concert with my American, German, and French colleagues, I also addressed a note to the Governor-General, of which a copy is annexed, and in which we drew his attention to the facts disclosed in the telegram received from Xanthi, and I followed this up by verbal representations to M. Dragoumis, who replied that he would give them careful consideration and submit them telegraphically to the Government at Athens, seeing that it was not within his competence to issue instructions in the matter.

I had in the meantime received a telegram from the acting vice-consul at Dedeagatch, requesting me to inform His Britannic Majesty's Embassy that a similar state of affairs existed there and that foreign interests appealed for protection. I communicated the sense of this telegram to His Britannic Majesty's Embassy and also to the Legation at Athens.

In the course of the day I received appeals of a similar nature from Stroumnitza, Novrocop and other places in the regions about to be evacuated by the Greeks. Though inclined to hope that the fears of wholesale destruction of life and property which are being universally expressed may be considerably exaggerated, there is no doubt that in the existing state of feeling everywhere regrettable incidents may easily take place, in spite of the conclusion of peace, and I therefore considered it desirable to inform you of the existing apprehensions in my telegram No. 81 of this date.

In support of this opinion, I added that it had just been reported to me that an encounter had already occurred at Melnik between the Greek garrison and local militia, on the one hand, and a Bulgarian "band," officially stated to have been 1,600 strong, on the other, in which both parties are said to have suffered numerous casualties.

I have, &c.
HARRY H. LAMB

Enclosure in No. 450.

Note communicated to M. Dragoumis

M. le Gouverneur general, *Salonique, le 6 (19) août*, 1913.

LES soussignés, consuls d'Allemagne, d'Angleterre, des Etats-Unis et de France, ont reçu des représentants de divers établissements de commerce étrangers à Xanthi une dépêche télégraphique, dans laquelle ces derniers expriment certaines appréhensions relativement aux suites possibles de l'évacuation de cette ville par les autorités militaires helléniques avant le remplacement de celles-ci par une autre autorité competente.

Ils se permettent de communiquer à votre Excellence copie de cette dépêche pour les fins qui lui sembleront indiquées par les circonstances.

Veuillez, &c.

[39481] No. 451.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 734.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 20, 1913.*

IN compliance with instructions contained in your despatch No. 235 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform you that, in my opinion, Mr. H. Peare would be the most competent lawyer in Constantinople to advise Sir P. Harvey on the questions relating to railway and other concessions which will come up before the Special Committee of the Balkan Financial Commission. He informs me, however, that it is quite impossible for him to leave Constantinople this autumn, and I would therefore suggest his father, Sir Edwin Peare, as the most suitable adviser. He has had a very extensive, perhaps the most extensive, experience of all Constantinople lawyers in such questions, but, unfortunately, his knowledge of French is not all that could be wished, though he reads and understands it, when spoken, adequately.

Sir Edwin would, I understand, be satisfied with a fee of from four to five guineas per diem.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

[39486] No. 452.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 739.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 22, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir, reporting on the state of affairs in his district.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 452.

Vice-Consul Greig to Mr. Marling.

(No. 48. Confidential.)

Sir, *Monastir, August 9, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report as follows on current events in this district:—

In my despatch No. 45 of the 22nd July an account was given of the methods whereby the Servian authorities are endeavouring to eliminate the Bulgarian religious and educational systems in their sphere, and it was stated that practically all the local Exarchist priests had accepted the headship of the Archbishop of Belgrade, whilst

most of the schoolmasters were refusing to make a declaration of voluntary allegiance to Servia. The substance of this declaration was as follows:—

"Five and a half centuries ago our forefathers were Serbs.* They were conquered by the Turks. Whilst under Turkish rule they were forced by propaganda and terrorism to become Bulgars. We have now been given freedom by our kinsmen and have again become Serbs. The Bulgars did not come to make us free, but marched into Thrace and fought for non-Slavonic races there. And now they are waging war against Servia.

"Of our free will we accept the protection of King Peter and of his son, the heir to the Servian throne."

Twenty-five schoolmasters have been expelled for refusing to sign this statement. They were not, however, sent, as was threatened, into the Greek sphere, where they might have been exposed to a very hostile reception, but travelled under escort to Semendria on the Danube and thence by river to Bulgaria.

As already reported, practically all the Exarchist priests have submitted to the Servian Primate. Only one has been expelled for refusing.

An anonymous letter has been received by this vice-consulate, purporting to have been written by "the Bulgarian clergy of Monastir," requesting me to inform His Majesty's Government that they have been compelled, under threat of expulsion into Greek territory, to renounce the Exarch and recognise the Servian ecclesiastical authorities, that they and their parishioners are prepared to declare openly before a European commission their Bulgarian sentiments, and that they consider the present state of things worse than the Turkish regime.

Owing to the great difficulty of communicating with suspected persons, it is not at present known how far this communication may be spontaneous. There is reason to suspect that it was at least prompted by the Austrian consulate.

A third class of the Exarchist community, the notables—merchants and landowners—having rejected the declaration of allegiance to Servia in the original form already quoted, have been allowed to sign the following modified statement:—

"We thank our brothers, the Serbs, of the army of emancipation for freeing us from the yoke of the tyrant, and as a token of appreciation we will be loyal citizens and will co-operate with our brothers, the Serbs, for the good of our country in common."

This modified declaration has been generally accepted by the Bulgars of Monastir itself. Fourteen notables of the outlying districts, mainly Ressna, refusing to sign it, have been expelled. They include Michel and George Tatarchef, of Ressna, connections of the well-known Dr. Tatarchef, and Eftim Lupchef, also of Ressna, a connection of the Bulgarian ex-Minister of Agriculture of the same name.

The Greek religious system has not yet been actually interfered with. But, with prospects of peace, Servian officials are becoming more and more aggressively outspoken as to the speedy abolition of all non-Slavonic institutions. It is now announced that a representative of the Archbishop of Belgrade, described as a "Director of Ecclesiastical Affairs," will shortly arrive here, and will "come to an understanding" with the Greek Archbishop. Besides this, the local representative of the Servian Ministry of Foreign Affairs tells me that the Greek language will not be much longer tolerated in churches in the Servian sphere. From this it may be inferred that the Greek churches are to follow the fate of the Bulgarian establishments, the more or less rapid progress of the work of abolition being a mere matter of expediency according to developments of foreign policy.

The anticipated abolition of the Greek churches coupled with the closing of the schools has increased the bitterness with which the Greek-pbil population views the Servian occupation. The Serbs certainly do nothing to mitigate this feeling. Greek shopkeepers have been given to understand that they would be well advised to write up their names in Servian characters, Greek songs are discouraged, every Greek who visits Salonica is suspected of pro-Hellenic intrigue and spied upon. One Petros Gogo, a Greek merchant of Monastir, who was educated in Vienna, has been expelled under a probably justified suspicion of fostering an anti-Serb agitation in Monastir in Austrian interests.

* Whereas purely Servian blood was infused into the mixed races of Macedonia only during the brief period of Servian rule between the collapse of the Vlacho-Bulgar Empire on the death of Asen II in 1241 and the Turkish conquest—a bare century.

A Servian claim to Florina and Castoria, which have been in Greek occupation since November last, seems likely to be pressed if Gorcha is given to Albania, and it is scarcely likely to contribute to a friendly feeling between the allies. The claim would be based on the ground that the majority of the population in those districts is Slav, that the two places are of value to Greece only as a means of access to Gorcha, and that their possession becomes superfluous if the latter town is given to Albania.

The villages to the south of Lakes Ochrida and Prosba seem likely to be another bone of contention.

Although there is no open talk of interfering at present with the Vlach churches or schools, it is the Servian intention to get rid of the schools, at least, as soon as possible, even if the method adopted is less direct than in the case of the Bulgar and Greek establishments.

I have, &c.
C. A. GREIG.

[39487] No. 453.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 740.)
Sir, *Constantinople, August 22, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that this embassy has recently received a number of telegrams protesting against the return of Adrianople to the Bulgarians. These telegrams (seven in number) are all from the vilayet of Aidin, and would seem to have been drawn up on a somewhat similar plan. As a rule the signatories—a Turk or two, a Greek, and perhaps a Jew, in two cases an Armenian as well—represent a meeting of carefully numbered thousands, and speak feelingly about the historic rights of Turkey and the horrible atrocities committed by the Bulgarians against Mussulmans and Greeks.

In this country nothing is easier than to obtain signatures to telegrams of this kind; they can be bought for a few piastres, or simply affixed without their bearers being consulted, and I have little doubt that the "Committee" agents in the provinces have had recourse to devices of this kind in the present instance.

I have, &c.
CHARLES M. MARLING.

Enclosure in No. 453.

Telegram of Protest with regard to Adrianople addressed to Mr. Marling.

(Translation.)
To the British Embassy, *Tiré, August 11, 1913.*

THIS great meeting, composed of more than 15,000 persons, regards the action of the Powers with regard to the evacuation by the Ottomans of their second sacred capital, Adrianople, as a tragic blow to justice and humanity, and urges the Great Powers to do justice. The barbarous, bloody atrocities committed in Roumelia and in the vilayet of Adrianople have been proved by the reliable evidence of innumerable official and unofficial witnesses. The sacrifice of honour to Bulgarian crime, what is known about the prisoners, and the attacks on the lives of the Mussulman and non-Mussulman population admit of no denial on the part of honest men. In consequence, all the Ottomans, Mussulman and non-Mussulman, present at this meeting have resolved to defend Adrianople to their last farthing and the last drop of their blood. We are ready for any sacrifice, preferring an honourable death to life with dishonour.

MEHMED SALIH, Mufti of the Kaza of Tiré; AHMED NIAZI, President of the Municipality; KHAIRULLAH, Mevlevi Sheikh; ALI, Refai Sheikh; HAMDI, Teacher; ALI RIZA, Teacher; KALLINOS (?), Greek Vice-Metropolitan; ISHMAEL, Representative of Grand Rabbi; AVRAM POLTIS (?), HAJJI; DIAMANTI, Istanbolou Oglou.

[39489] No. 454.

Mr Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 742.)

Sir, *Constantinople, August 23, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch No. 15 of the 6th August, 1913, from His Majesty's vice-consul at Dedeagatch reporting on annexation of Dedeagatch to Bulgaria, and on meeting of protestation against.

I have, &c.

CHARLES M. MARLING

Enclosure 1 in No. 454.

Vice-Consul Badetti to Mr. Marling.

(No. 15.)

Sir, *Dédéagatch, le 5 août, 1913*

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que dans l'après-midi d'hier un grand meeting a été tenu en ville pour protester contre l'annexion de notre ville aux Bulgares. Les orateurs les plus bruyants furent des Grecs et musulmans.

Vers les 6 heures toute cette foule s'est rendue devant ma maison et fit une manifestation des plus chaleureuses.

Je vous remets ci-inclus l'original du vote, qui m'a été remis (ainsi que la traduction) aux fins de vous le faire parvenir.

J'ai, &c.

G. BADETTI.

Enclosure 2 in No. 454.

Resolution.

(Translation.)

LA population de Dédéagatch et alentours, dès qu'elle s'est délivrée de la lourde et détestable domination bulgare, s'est réunie aujourd'hui, lundi, 22 juillet (v.s.), en meeting et ayant entendu les orateurs MM. Demètre Mantzides et Emin Effendi, qui lui ont adressé la parole, a, d'une commune voix, accepté ce qui suit :—

" Vu pratiquement aucune raison ethnologique n'existant pas, et que le Gouvernement bulgare, après sa gestion inhumaine de neuf mois d'occupation à laquelle il nous a soumis, et les férocités que l'armée bulgare a commises, n'ayant respecté ni religion ni honneur ni vie, contre toute loi humaine, prouvé indigne d'avoir sous son autorité des peuples étrangers à lui ;

" Nous déclarons que d'aucune manière nous ne tolérerons le retour du régime bulgare, prêts à accepter quelle autre solution. Nous implorons, avec les larmes aux yeux, Sa Majesté notre Roi Constantin de ne pas nous livrer, nous, qui depuis tant des siècles avons rêvé l'état publique actuel, aux ongles des massacreurs et violateurs bulgares, que nous ne pourrons souffrir à l'avenir, préférant nous expatrier ou subir n'importe quel autre sacrifice.

" Nous soumettons respectueusement à Sa Majesté notre décision inébranlable que, dans le cas que, contre loi divine et humaine, nous serions laissées jouets de la sauvagerie des vandales bulgares, nous mettrons le feu à tout et nous expatrierons.

" Nous exprimons notre profonde reconnaissance aux autorités hellènes qui ont occupé notre ville, nous ayant rendu la liberté réelle, et pour l'exemplaire respect des droits de tous sans distinction de race et de religion démontré par elles.

" Nous chargeons à une commission la remise du présent pour être transmis à Sa Majesté notre Roi Constantin, ainsi qu'à MM. les consuls des Grandes Puissances, de notre ville, avec prière de le soumettre à leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

" S. Comninidès.
" Ismaïl Hakki Effendi
" Har. Léondaridès.
" Emin Effendi.
" A. Enkserdjian.
" K. Papathanase.
" Nissim B. Juda."

[39499] No. 455.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey. (Received August 27.)

(No. 306.)

Sir, *Berlin, August 24, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a deputation representing the people of Adrianople arrived in Berlin on the 21st instant, and were received at the Imperial Foreign Office on the following day by Herr von Stumm, one of the Under-Secretaries, to whom they handed a memorandum containing an expression of their desire that Adrianople should be left in the possession of Turkey.

According to the accounts of the interview published in the press from unofficial sources, the members of the deputation also made speeches setting forth their views and bringing various accusations of cruelty against the Bulgarians. Herr von Stumm is stated in these reports to have received the deputation in a specially friendly manner, and to have said in reply to one of the speeches that "Germany had always supported Turkish interests."

In conversation with me yesterday, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs told me that it was not true that Herr von Stumm had made such a statement, and that he had confined himself to promising to lay the memorandum before his Excellency and to inform him of what the deputation had said. In order to correct the impression created by the newspaper reports a communiqué to the above effect has been published in the "Cologne Gazette."

I have, &c.

W. E. GOSCHEN.

[39634] No. 456.

M. Madjaroff to Sir L. Mallet.—(Received August 27.)

Bulgarian Legation, London

Dear Sir Louis, *August 26, 1913.*

LAST evening I informed you, Government out of the renewed Turkish assurances that the Turkish forces are being withdrawn from Thrace west of Maritza. About the same time M. Ghenadief was wiring from Sophia that, "according to the information of the Bulgarian army headquarters, regular Turkish troops occupied Mustafa and Gumuldjina on the 22nd and 23rd August." The contrast between the Turkish promises and performances makes all comments superfluous.

Yours sincerely,

M. IV. MADJAROF.

[39584] No. 57.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 27.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 26, 1913.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 31st ultimo, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of letter, dated the 15th instant (with enclosure), which has been received from Vice-Admiral Cecil Burney, K.C.B., respecting the letter alleged to have been addressed by him to the chiefs of Sala and Sosit.

I am, &c.

W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 457.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty

Sir, *Scutari, Albania, August* 15, 1913.

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of the 8th instant, be pleased to inform their Lordships that the following are the facts in connection with the letter alleged to have been addressed by me to the chiefs of Sala and Sosit.

2. On the 28th June the priest of Seher Sosit came to see me, and complained that the people in his country were in a very unsettled state. He said he thought that if an officer visited the place it would have a good effect. I told him that an officer could not be sent so far from Scutari at present, and requested him to ask the chiefs of the tribes to come in and see me.

3. On the 6th July I received a reply from the priest to say that he could not get the chiefs in, as they were working at the crops.

4. Some days later a man came to see me, and said he had come from Sala and Sosit. He brought a petition, which stated that the writer (Kola-i-Shnal), representing 800 families, wished me to send a person of authority out to try and unite the people and keep them quiet. The bearer of the petition asked me to give him a letter to show that he had been to me, and I wrote the following:—

"To Miter Kola-i-Shnal

"His Excellency has received your petition asking for an officer to be sent to your district to 'faire l'union parmi tous les paysans,' and informs you that this will be done as soon as possible after the gendarmerie is formed."

5. On the 10th July some of the members of the Albanian Club at Scutari came to see me, and said that the tribes in Sala and Sosit and the neighbouring villages were in a very unsettled state, and asked me to call them in to Scutari. I told them I had already done so, and had received a reply that they were working at the crops and could not come in. The members discredited this reply, and asked me to write again. I did so, and asked the chiefs of Sala and Sosit to come and see me and bring two men from each village. This letter was sent by a special messenger.

6. On the 21st July I received a letter, a translation of which is attached. This letter was posted in Scutari, a few yards from my residence. I have since discovered that it was written by the priest of Sala.

7. On the 22nd July I received a reply to the letter I had sent by special messenger, saying that the chiefs had received my letter and thanked me for it. They and two men from each of the villages I had named would come in to Scutari after the 26th July, on which day they had a feast.

8. On the 31st July they all arrived, and, accompanied by the Italian and Austrian Admirals, I interviewed them. They denied all knowledge of the reply sent in by the priest of Seher Sosit, and said that the only communication they had received from me was the one sent by special messenger.

9. In translating the letter which I had written, referred to in paragraph 4, into Albanian the interpreter made a mistake by inserting the Albanian word for "English" with the word "officer," the word "English" not being in the letter as written by me.

The other part of the letter which appeared in the "Neue Freie Presse" is the invention of the priest of Sala.

10. There is no doubt in my mind that the man who came to me with the petition signed by Kola-i-Shna. was sent by the priest of Sala, and my letter was misinterpreted by him. The reply to the letter was, as stated, also written by this priest, and then forwarded to the Austrian Consulate at Scutari, and from there to the newspaper.

I have, &c.

CECIL BURNEY.

Enclosure 2 in No. 457.

Joint Letter addressed to the President of the International Commission.

(Translation from Albanian.)

IN answer to your Excellency's letter dated the 9th July, we, Prele Marku, chief of Shales, and Gielosh Kola, Chief of Sosit, in the name of the nobles of Dugagjin, of Nikaj, of Merturit, and of Dushmanit, gathered in a meeting at Shosh, let your Excellency know that nobody lives in these mountains with the name of Kol Shala, the man who has come and spoken in the name of our tribes, and we have given authority to no one to go to Scutari and ask for an English Governor for these parts.

Therefore, in the first place, as soon as this man Kol Shala is known to us, according to our laws, his house will be burnt, his property and land confiscated, and he will be expelled from the tribes as a traitor.

Secondly, before Albania is freed and the frontiers settled and her Prince nominated, we will never consent to have an English Governor, or one of any other nation, in these mountains of ours. Whenever the time comes to send a Governor to these places he must be of the Albanian race, or else one nominated by Austria-Hungary and her partners, whom alone we can believe, because they wish the good of Albania.

With honour, &c.

PRELE MARKU, *Chief*
GIELOSH KOLA, *Chief*

[39490] No. 458.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 434.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 26, 1913.

INDIRECT pourparlers have commenced between M. Natchevitch and Ottoman Government for direct settlement of question of Thrace. I think that Turks hope to put Bulgaria into position of renouncing by implication basis of Treaty of London.

[39639] No. 459.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 435.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 27, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 424 of 25th August.

Turkish irregulars have no doubt been operating far west of the Maritza, especially towards the north. Local Committee organ recently announced "capture by Ottoman troops" of a Bulgarian Captain Dompanezief and about 150 prisoners of war in district of Kirjali. As all Thrace reoccupied by Turkey is under military law it is impossible to get trustworthy news, while official information and assurances, like those given by Grand Vizier as to non-crossing of Enos-Midia line, cannot be implicitly relied on.

Turkish interpretation of "Maritza line" includes as much territory to the west of that river as they consider necessary to secure their railway, &c., communications with Adrianople, and to give them good defence frontier.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[39645] No. 460.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 436.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August* 27, 1913.

NAVAL commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean has consulted me as to the necessity for retaining the "Black Prince" at Constantinople.

Contingency to provide against which ships were originally sent seems unlikely to recur, and I see no reason to retain her. There remain now two Italian, one German, one French, and one Austrian. Russian, Spanish, Dutch, and Roumanian have all been withdrawn.

[39651] No. 461.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 437.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 27, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 424 of 25th August.

Grand Vizier energetically denies that Turkish troops have advanced to Gumuljina or Kirjali, but as he also denies that there have been pourparlers of any kind with Bulgaria I am not inclined to attach great importance to his statement.

I have telegraphed to vice-consul at Dedeagatch for information, but as I can only communicate with him *en clair* his reply may be delayed or mutilated. (End of R.)

(Confidential.)

Austrian Ambassador appears to think that Sophia news may be true.

[39622] No. 462.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 27, 1913.*

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs gave me yesterday his views as regards the reported advance of the Turks to Kirjali and Gumuljina. His Excellency expressed great doubt as to whether this advance was being made, saying that it was officially denied at Constantinople, and that the German Ambassador had reported to that effect. His idea was that the Bulgarians, by retiring, are endeavouring to lead the Turks on in the hope that events may occur which may lead the Powers to interfere, and he said that he hoped that neither Turkey nor the Powers would fall into this obvious trap.

Since this conversation I have received your telegram No. 314 of 26th August to Paris and I am to see his Excellency again this afternoon.

[39653] No. 463.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 27, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 315 of 26th August to Paris acted on.

[39654] No. 464.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 27, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 145 of 27th August.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to whom I communicated substance of your telegram No. 313 of 26th August, repeated that Grand Vizier had given the German Ambassador full assurances that there was no truth in Bulgarian reports of Turkish advance. Turkish Ambassador here had given him similar assurances. He said, however, that, if it should be proved, on enquiry, that Bulgarian reports were true, he would certainly continue to make energetic representations to the Porte. He added that, in any case, he was still, for reasons given, against any collective representation.

[39639] No. 465.

Sir Edward Grey to Acting Consul-General Morgan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 27, 1913.*

HAVE you any further news from Gumuljina since Mr. Lamb's telegram No. 85 of 23rd August?

Is there any truth in report of Bulgarian retirement and Turkish reoccupation?

[38546] No. 466.

Sir Edward Grey to Tewfik Pasha.

HIS Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Turkish Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Highness's note of the 19th instant regarding the alleged shooting of Turkish prisoners of war by Bulgarian troops.

Sir E. Grey hastens to inform Tewfik Pasha, in reply, that he has not failed to make representations on the subject to the Bulgarian Government.

Foreign Office, August 27, 1913.

[38408] No. 467.

Sir Edward Grey to M. de Fleuriau

HIS Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the French Chargé d'Affaires, and has the honour to refer to the conversation which M. de Fleuriau recently had with Sir L. Mallet relative to the reported desire of the Austro-Hungarian Government to add to the Treaty of Bucharest a clause to ensure the protection of Catholics and Mussulmans in Servia and Montenegro, and of Greeks in Thrace.

Sir Edward Grey, to whom this conversation was reported, begs leave to inform M. de Fleuriau that His Majesty's Government have not yet been approached by the Austro-Hungarian Government on this subject, but that, if such a communication is made, His Majesty's Government would reply that they are ready to support the proposal on condition that it includes the protection of Mussulmans in any part of Thrace which may be retained by Bulgaria.

Foreign Office, August 27, 1913.

[39749] No. 468.

Mr O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 141.)
Sir, *Sophia, August 20, 1913.*

EVEN after the month of error and disaster which brought Bulgaria to her knees, nothing was more striking to the foreigner in Sophia than the calmness of the public mind and the cheerful equanimity of the official classes. There seemed to be a vague confidence that something must turn up to prevent the worst from coming to the worst, and an undefeated belief in the country's power of recovery. Nevertheless, it came as a relief when the Treaty of Bucharest was signed. Bad as things were, they might, it was felt, have been still worse; the low-water mark of fortune had been reached, stock could be taken of the loss, and work begun for its regaining. The belief fostered by the Government, that only Roumania and the armistice had saved the Greek army from crushing defeat and deprived Bulgaria of eventual victory, salved the pride of the nation and army, while the action of Austria and Russia [illegible] them with the hope that the treaty just signed would immediately be revised by the Great Powers in a sense favourable to this country, and no doubt was felt that the same Powers would be willing and able to deal with the fresh menace of the Ottoman advance in Thrace.

But time passes and these hopes show no sign of fulfilment, the dream of revision seems to be fading, and the march of the Turks is not stayed. The doubt grows whether the worst is indeed over, and for the first time bewilderment and despondency prevail.

Nevertheless, partly no doubt owing to the state of siege and the press censorship, but greatly also to the undemonstrative character of the Bulgarian, these feelings have found no public expression. The army is, indeed, full of a savage discontent, which has found itself in some indiscipline, but the men's one desire is to get to their homes again, and they are in no mood to waste an hour on politics, even were the present Government the object of their resentment. But that resentment is, in fact, directed against the previous Administration and against Dr. Danef, whose untimely truculence led to so great disaster.

The ability and energy of the present Foreign Minister is admitted on all hands, and there are no candidates for his arduous and thankless post. Not until external dangers are past can events be reviewed and responsibilities weighed. Then there may come a time of reckoning, of bitter recrimination and of punishment, of which the issue cannot be foretold, but for the present those troubles seem more distant than they did only a short time ago.

I have, &c.
W. O'REILLY

[39751] No. 469.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 144.)

Sir, *Sophia, August 20, 1913.*

FOR a time after the signature of the Treaty of Peace every confidence was expressed here that the prospect of its revision, apparently implied by the action of Austria and Russia at Bucharest, would shortly be fulfilled. As time goes on that confidence seems to grow less. The action of Russia is believed to have been prompted rather by a desire to enable Bulgaria to sign the treaty with a better face than by any real intention to cause it to be revised, and it is doubted whether Austria, as the only Power seriously interested in the strengthening of Bulgaria, will be now prepared either to propose revision or to enforce on Greece, or even Servia, the acceptance of its results.

In the circumstances the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs continues to play a losing game with energy and cheerfulness, and is preparing a large memorandum containing the Bulgarian case to be presented in due course to the Great Powers. In it he will maintain, so far as I am informed, the strategical necessity for the defence of Sophia that the district of Kotchana should be restored by Servia to Bulgaria, and will urge the claims of this country to recover from Greece the port of Cavalla, and as a consequence the town and district of Serres, through which he argues that any railway between Cavalla and the interior of Bulgaria must necessarily run.

I have, &c.
W. O'REILLY

[39752] No. 470.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 145.)

Sir, *Sophia, August 20, 1913.*

MANY and pressing as are the questions which confront Bulgaria after the disastrous conclusion of ten months of exhausting warfare, they are all overshadowed for the present by the menace implied in the forward policy of the Ottoman Government. Not only is there no Bulgarian force in Thrace capable of even delaying the Turkish reoccupation of that region, but after the demobilisation pursuant to the Treaty of Bucharest, even though four classes, instead of the normal two, are being retained with the colours, the available number of troops will hardly exceed 80,000 men. Of these two divisions are to be specially located in the districts of Stara Zagora and Yamboli, making, with the forces normally stationed there, about 50,000 men on the threatened frontier of southern Bulgaria. By itself this force is manifestly unequal to those which the Turks could bring against it, nor, in their present temper, could the lately

released reservists be mobilised again in time to support it. It is therefore no exaggeration to say that nothing, save the Great Powers, stands between the good pleasure of the Ottoman Government and this capital.

The Turkish advanced parties are approaching places which the Greek forces now occupy, but are to evacuate, as the Greek Government have announced, on the 22nd instant. A strong suspicion exists here that the Greeks would be glad to hand over possession of these places to the Turks instead of to the Bulgarian authorities, and have therefore fixed for their evacuation a date by which no Bulgarian force can possibly reach those localities. During the interregnum which would ensue, either the Turks would march in or disorders might occur which would give them an excuse for doing so later. The Bulgarian Government have therefore put forward at Athens the request, for which, as reported in my telegram No. 348 of yesterday, they solicit your support, that the Greek evacuation may be deferred until the 28th instant, in order to allow of the arrival of Bulgarian troops and authorities (copies of the notes addressed to me on this subject are enclosed herewith), and they calculate that the Greek Government will have either to comply, or else, by refusing, to lay themselves open to the charge of collusion with the Turks.

Further, the Bulgarian Government have requested that the military attachés to the legations at Sophia may be allowed to accompany the Bulgarian reoccupation, in order, as they allege, to witness that no excesses are committed, but in reality, I have no doubt, because they hope that the Turks would hesitate to attack a Bulgarian force which was accompanied by representatives of the Powers. This motive appears from the second note of the 19th instant, copy of which I have the honour to enclose, in which it is stated that the action of the Turks in forcibly expelling the Bulgarian garrison of Kouchoukavak proves the advisability of sending the military attachés.

The French Minister told me to-day that his colleague at Athens has been instructed to concert with the British and Russian representatives with a view to supporting the Bulgarian request that the Greek evacuation should be deferred. With respect to the request that the military attaché should be suffered to accompany the Bulgarian reoccupying force, the French Government had, he said, not yet replied.

I have, &c.
W. O'REILLY

Enclosure 1 in No. 470.

M. Ghenadief to Mr. O'Reilly.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sophia, le 3 (16) août, 1913.*

LE Gouvernement Royal bulgare est informé que la Sublime Porte a fait connaître que si un terme n'est pas mis aux exactions des troupes bulgares dans les territoires évacués par l'armée hellénique le Gouvernement Impérial ottoman se verrait contraint d'envoyer des troupes à l'ouest de la Maritza, à l'effet de protéger les populations.

Le Gouvernement Royal estime superflu de s'appesantir sur le but très évident que poursuit cette démarche. Désireux de préparer l'opinion publique européenne et les chancelleries à l'occupation non seulement de la région d'Andrinople, mais aussi des territoires situés à l'ouest de la Maritza, la Sublime Porte cherche à légitimer cette occupation en multipliant les accusations et les griefs contre les troupes et les autorités Royales.

Se hâtant, du reste, de joindre l'action aux démarches diplomatiques, la Sublime Porte a déjà ordonné l'envoi de troupes dans ces territoires; en effet, après avoir occupé Moustapha-Pacha, Dimotika, Soufflou, des détachements ottomans ont atteint Kouchoukavak, à 70 kilom. du fleuve, et se dirigent vers Kirdjali et Gumurdjina.

Le Gouvernement Royal croit avoir fait justice, par les explications contenues dans sa notice en date du 5 août, de la version turque sur l'incident de Stara Zagora, démesurément grossi et si profondément dénaturé par les communications intéressées provenant de Constantinople. Il se borne à faire observer que le fait de l'occupation par les troupes turques des territoires dont il s'agit avant même que les troupes bulgares en aient repris possession, prouve clairement combien le motif invoqué par la Sublime Porte ne correspond pas aux faits.

Pour témoigner devant des Gouvernements des Grandes Puissances de la vérité de ses dires et de son absolue bonne foi, ainsi que pour couper court à toute possibilité d'accusations nouvelles, le Gouvernement Royal bulgare a l'honneur de proposer que la

réoccupation de territoires en question par les troupes bulgares ait lieu en présence de MM. les attachés militaires étrangers à Sophia, qui pourront y rester tout le temps qu'ils jugeront utile.

Vous n'ignorez point, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, quels lourds sacrifices le Traité de Bucarest a imposés à la Bulgarie; vous savez notamment que la démobilisation complète de l'armée bulgare est une des obligations résultant pour nous de ce traité. Vous ne pourrez donc manquer d'apprécier comme moi la suprême iniquité qu'il y aurait à permettre aux Turcs d'enfreindre impunément une des dispositions fondamentales de la paix de Londres et à les laisser violer le territoire d'un État qui vient de déposer les armes. Vous penserez certainement que la prolongation de cet état de choses constituerait une nouvelle et très cruelle épreuve pour notre pays, à un moment surtout où il a tant besoin de recueillement et de paix définitive.

La Bulgarie, confiante en l'esprit de justice des Grandes Puissances et se fondant sur les déclarations de leurs Gouvernements, n'a jamais mis en doute que, par leur action sage et ferme, elles sauront, en persuadant la Sublime Porte de la nécessité pour elle de respecter le Traité de Londres, l'amener à une compréhension plus juste de ses obligations internationales et de ses vrais intérêts.

Aussi le Gouvernement Royal est convaincu que les Grandes Puissances auront à cœur de mettre obstacle, par les moyens les plus appropriés, à la présence de troupes ottomanes en territoire bulgare, en deçà de la ligne Midia-Énos, et à leur nouvelle marche en avant, qui, par suite du danger de collisions avec les troupes bulgares, peut susciter de graves incidents, et risque de créer un état de choses qui, en lui-même et par ses nombreuses et graves répercussions, peut rendre plus malaisée encore l'œuvre de justice et de paix qu'elles ont entreprise.

Veuilloz, &c.
N. GHÉNADIEF.

Enclosure 2 in No. 470.

M. Chenadief to Mr. O'Reilly.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sophia, le 6 (19) août*, 1913.

PAR l'entremise de la Légation Impériale de Russie, le Gouvernement hellénique vient de me faire une communication au sujet de la nomination des commissions chargées de délimiter la frontière bulgaro-grecque et de l'évacuation du territoire, qui, conformément au Traité de Bucarest, revient à la Bulgarie. D'après cette communication, les troupes helléniques se retireront en deçà de la ligne frontière le 7 (20) courant et les villes de Dedeagatch, Xanthe et Gumuldjina seront évacuées le 8 (21) août.

Au sujet de ce dernier point, j'ai l'honneur d'attirer votre attention sur le fait que le maintien de l'ordre dans le territoire à évacuer par les troupes grecques exige la remise de ce territoire par les autorités helléniques aux autorités bulgares. Or, étant donnés les distances et le manque de bonnes communications, il est matériellement impossible au Gouvernement de faire parvenir les troupes nécessaires et les organes de l'autorité aux villes indiquées avant le 15 (28) août. L'ordre et la tranquillité risquent donc d'être troublés dans le territoire en question et la population exposée à tous les dangers de l'anarchie.

A ce motif contre une évacuation si précipitée vient s'ajouter un autre non moins important. Dans le cas où les troupes helléniques se retireraient du territoire occupé actuellement par elles avant que les troupes bulgares se trouvent là, ce fait fournirait aux autorités turques un prétexte pour faire occuper le territoire évacué et pour créer ainsi des conflits entre les troupes bulgares qui s'y rendraient et les troupes turques, ce qui présenterait un grave danger pour le maintien de la paix.

Vu ce qui précède, j'ai l'honneur de recourir à votre intermédiaire de vouloir bien prier le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique d'intervenir auprès du Gouvernement hellénique afin que les troupes grecques soient à occuper le territoire qui revient à la Bulgarie jusqu'au 15 (28) août, date à laquelle ces troupes bulgares pourront arriver sur les lieux afin d'éviter toutes épreuves à la population, déjà si malheureuse, et tout danger de nouvelles complications. Dans ces cas où, pour raisons d'ordre supérieur, le Gouvernement hellénique ne pourrait garder plus longtemps ses garnisons dans tout le territoire en question, il serait nécessaire que les garnisons grecques soient maintenues jusqu'à la date indiquée au moins dans les villes de Dédéagatch, Xanthe et Gumuldjina.

Je profite de cette occasion pour vous rappeler ma note du 3 (16) août et de vous prier à nouveau de vouloir bien vous employer auprès du Gouvernement de la Grande-Bretagne, afin qu'il veuille bien charger l'attaché militaire britannique à Sophia d'assister à la réoccupation du territoire en question pour les motifs exposés dans cette note.

En vous exprimant mes remerciements anticipés pour les démarches que vous voudrez bien faire à ce sujet, je vous prie, &c.

N. GHÉNADIEF.

Enclosure 3 in No. 470.

M. Ghénadief to Mr. O'Reilly.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sophia, le 6 (19) août*, 1913.

ME référant à la note du 3 (16) août, je m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance qu'après un vif engagement avec la petite garnison de Kouchouk-vak les troupes turques ont définitivement occupé hier ce point. De son côté, la population musulmane de la région s'est jointe à l'armée turque et, prenant les armes, s'est livrée au massacre des soldats bulgares égarés et de la population bulgare.

Ces faits viennent confirmer les craintes que j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de vous exposer au sujet des nouvelles complications que la Sublime Porte prémédite de créer.

D'autre part, la manière d'agir des Turcs montre une fois de plus combien ma proposition sur l'envoi de MM. les attachés militaires à Sophia dans le territoire situé sur la rive droite de la Maritza est utile et opportune.

En attirant de nouveau votre bienveillante attention sur les motifs qui militent en faveur de cette mesure, j'aime à croire que vous ne refuserez pas de faire de nouvelles démarches auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique en vue de la prompte réalisation de cette mesure.

Veuillez, &c.
N. GHÉNADIEF.

[39688] No. 471

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Salonica, August 21, 1913.*

IN continuation of my preceding despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that trustworthy details of the encounter at Melnik, alluded to in the last paragraph, are not yet forthcoming. It would appear to have been of the nature of a marauding expedition organised by partisans of Sandansky (according to some versions that brigand was personally engaged) for the purpose of loot and of accelerating the evacuation of the district by the Greeks. The small garrison, aided by the Greek inhabitants, succeeded in preventing the marauders from forcing their way into the town during a day and a night, and were eventually relieved by the arrival of reinforcements from Demir Hissar.

On Monday, the 18th, the inhabitants of Melnik held a meeting, and decided, in view of the imminent withdrawal of the Greek authorities, to abandon the town and destroy everything that they could not remove in their flight, rather than allow their possessions to fall into the hands of the Bulgars. According to the narrative of fugitives who have now reached Salonica, this decision was immediately put into execution, the women and children being first sent out of the town loaded with their most precious effects, including the images and other ornaments of their churches. The men then proceeded to load every available vehicle or transport animal with other movable property, to stave in the wine vats, cut down as far as possible the more accessible vineyards, and finally to set fire to the town.

The inhabitants of Stortchevo and other neighbouring villages followed the example of those at Melnik, the whole population trekking southwards into the plain between Demir Hissar and Barakli Djouman.

The surviving population of numerous Turkish villages in the district of Melnik appear also to have abandoned their homes and fled into the districts which are to remain Greek.

A similar exodus appears to have taken place from Xanthi, Gumuljina, Dedeagatch (whither the Greek Government despatched four or five transports to facilitate the removal of the population), Stroumnitsa, and numerous other places, though I am yet without information as to the extent to which the inhabitants have executed their threat to set fire to their habitations before abandoning them.

The Greek authorities here declare that they have done everything in their power to discourage this movement, but the general impression appears to be that their efforts in this direction have been at most half-hearted, and that they could at least have prevented the movement from becoming general if they had so desired. There appear, however, to be two currents of opinion prevalent amongst the Greeks, one party favouring the concentration of the Hellenic elements in the territories now assigned to them under the Treaty of Bucharest, without reflecting that this ruined population will constitute a heavy burden on the resources of the country for years to come; while the others regret that this wholesale exodus of the Greek element from the territories beyond their present border will deprive them of any solid basis for claims of further aggrandisement.

I have, &c.
HARRY H. LAMB.

[39667] No. 472.

Sir C. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 261.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, August 24, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that an official communiqué, of which following is a translation, was published in the Russian press this morning in regard to the recent appearance of an Italian cruiser in the Black Sea:—

"In view of the comments which have appeared in the press concerning the passage on the 12th instant from the Bosphorus into the Black Sea of the Italian cruiser at present stationed at Constantinople, the Information Bureau has ascertained from entirely reliable sources that this occurrence cannot be regarded as in any way a political action on the part of Italy.

"Nevertheless, in view of the question of principle involved, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to draw the attention of the Porte to this violation of existing treaties, which must in no way serve as a precedent in the matter of the Straits, the regulations concerning which are defined by the terms of the Treaty of Paris of 1856 and the Treaty of London of 1871, which was confirmed by the Treaty of Berlin of 1878."

I have, &c.
GEORGE W. BUCHANAN

[39677] No. 473.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 130.)

Sir, *Vienna, August 26, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a Macedonian deputation, which has been in Vienna for some days, was received yesterday at the Foreign Office by Baron von Macchio, Secretary-General, on behalf of Count Berchtold, who was prevented from receiving them in person.

The deputation is composed of MM. Georgof and Balabanof, professors at the University of Sophia, and of the former Deputy for Uskub, Dr. Pavlof. They were joined in Vienna, subsequently to their reception at the Foreign Office, by Dr Zankof, also professor at the Sophia University.

The deputation expresses themselves as delighted with their reception, both in official and other circles, and gratified in particular at the courtesy and interest in the object of their mission displayed by Baron von Macchio, with whom their interview lasted forty minutes.

[39787] No. 473*.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received August 28.)

(Confidential)

Sir, *Admiralty, August 28, 1913.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of telegrams, dated the 27th instant, from Vice-Admiral Burney respecting Albanian affairs.

I am, &c.

W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 473*

Vice-Admiral Burney to Admiralty

(Telegraphic.) P. *August 27, 1913.*

THE presence of Servian troops on the western bank of the Black Drin constitutes a menace to the peace of Albania. Each member of the Commission is informing his Government by wire to this effect, also requesting that the Servian Government be asked to withdraw their troops to the opposite bank of the Black Drin.

His Majesty's Minister at Belgrade states by telegram that the Servians are remaining on the right bank of the Black Drin, as they do not concur in the proposal.

Enclosure 2 in No. 473*.

Vice-Admiral Burney to Admiralty

(Telegraphic.) P *August 27, 1913.*

A TELEGRAM in the following sense has been sent by each member of the Commission to his Government :—

The Commission desires to impress upon European Governments the great importance of leaving Grouda and Hoti to Albania, and of making different terms with Montenegro. The tribes are determined to fight, and if any part of Grouda and Hoti is ceded to Montenegro it is the unanimous opinion of the International Commission that futile bloodshed will at once follow. To preserve peace between Albania and Montenegro everything possible should be done, and a financial arrangement should be made if no other territorial compensation is possible.

Baron von Macchio promised to submit their memorandum to Count Berchtold.

They are staying several days, and they have been promised an interview with Count Berchtold himself, if it can be arranged.

They have come to plead on behalf of autonomy for Macedonia, which they declare the latter country has deserved as much as Albania; and to protest against Macedonia being handed over to the Greeks and Serbs, who are hardly represented at all in that region.

They will proceed from here to St. Petersburgh and Berlin, returning through Vienna to Rome, and then visit Paris and London.

Their mission ended, they will again spend a few weeks in Vienna, and avail themselves of the opportunity of giving public lectures, with a view to interesting the public in the cause of Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(For the Ambassador),

A. AKERS-DOUGLAS.

[39789] No. 474.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 438.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 28, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from consul at Basra, dated 23rd August :—

"'Marmariss' proceeded down the river to Muamer on 21st August, where there is a local dispute connected with trade of date harvest. It is now reported that vessel has gone to Katr in order to make a survey.

"(Sent to embassy; repeated to Bushire.)"

Grand Vizier had no knowledge of incident, but said that ship might have been sent by local authorities, as they are still in ignorance of convention of 29th July. He promised to enquire and send necessary instructions.

Further telegram from Basra of to-day reports return of "Marmariss."

[39790] No. 475.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 439.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 28, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 435 of 27th August.

Talaat Bey, Minister of Interior, has just visited Ortakoui. It seems as if Turks desire to include basin of Maritza in new frontier.

(Very Confidential.)

On intimation from Russian Ambassador, M. Natchevitch yesterday informed member of Ottoman Cabinet, with whom he is in touch, that he expects to be authorised in a day or two to commence direct negotiations.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[39791] No. 476.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 440.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, August 28, 1913.*

AUSTRIAN delegate for delimitation of frontier under Treaty of London has been ordered by his Government to Sophia.

Italian delegate, on instructions from his Ambassador, declined to attend recent meeting of delegates.

[39792] No. 477

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 441.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 28, 1913.*

FOLLOWING received to-day from Salonica, No. 30:—

"Following from German, Italian, Austrian, and French consuls at Dedeagatch

"'Greeks definitely evacuate town evening of 28th August. Almost all inhabitants have fled. Town and the inhabitants remaining will be at the mercy of bashi-bozouks and konitajis. Help urgently required before 28th August.'"

Above sent to Athens.

[39795] No. 478.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 28, 1913.*

RUMOUR having reached me that General Caneva's recent visit to the Emperor at Ischl was connected with an Italian proposal regarding Ægean islands, I enquired of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon whether the visit had any political importance. He assured me that it had none, and that he himself had not even seen the general. According to his Excellency it was merely a visit of courtesy paid by the recent commander-in-chief of the forces of an allied country.

[39796] No. 479.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 28, 1913.*

YOUR despatch No. 162: Rodosto massacres.

I asked Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day what were his views with regard to consular reports as to Turkish atrocities. He told me that he saw endless difficulties for the Powers in carrying out any official enquiry into alleged cruelties in Balkans. Apparently he is not disposed to take part in any such enquiries.

[39673] No. 480.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

[By Post.]

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Paris, August 28, 1913.*

ASSISTANT Political Director, speaking unofficially, to-day stated that, having learnt that Italian Government were about to appoint a consular in addition to a military officer to represent them on Southern Albania Delimitation Commission, French Government might make a similar double appointment themselves.

Assistant Political Director explained that this was not in any way aimed against Italy. French Government had shown by their acceptance of your formula about the islands of Dodecanese how desirous they are of being conciliatory. Italian view, however differs from French view in the matter of frontier, and it is feared that the addition of a consular officer with local experience to Italian delegation might perhaps place the French military representative at some disadvantage in upholding the views of his Government.

[39783] No. 481.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Paris, August 28, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 314 of 26th August.

French Government have no information regarding alleged Turkish advance to Gumuljina. If the Bulgarian statements be confirmed, French Government will join in representations at Constantinople calling on Turks to abide by their own assurances, the more so as the French Ambassador at Constantinople was instructed on 25th August to speak at the Porte about the occupation of Kirjali.

[39794] No. 482.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, August 28, 1913.*

MR. MARLING'S telegram No. 441 of 28th August.

At request of Bulgarian Government, conveyed through Russian Minister, Greek Government have ordered their forces to remain at Dedeagatch until 31st August.

(Sent to Constantinople and Salonica.)

[39702] No. 483.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, August 28, 1913.*

YOUR telegram of 25th August.

First-named person was a rich merchant here, and a prominent supporter of the revolutionary organisation, but he took no active part in campaign. Arrested by Greeks at the beginning of the war with Bulgaria, he was sent to Greece; brought back three days ago, died this morning, 27th August, in hospital.

Second person was imprisoned three months ago for having a revolver in his house, and will be released from prison here in a month.

The other three are imprisoned in Ithaca.

None were members of a revolutionary band, and have not been condemned to death.

I believe that the Bulgarian Government also approached the Austro-Hungarian Government and the Russian Government about the above.

[39786] No. 484.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 357.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 28, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 354 of 25th August.

Turkish occupation of Gumuljina is not confirmed, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs states that retreat thence of the Bulgarian garrison was due to its communications being threatened by Turkish occupation of Kirjali. He explained that the Greeks had handed over Gumuljina and Xanthi to the Bulgarians on account of the postponement of the evacuation, but he believes that Dedeagatch is still in Greek hands.

The Bulgarian Government are unwilling to take risk of reoccupation until Kirjali and the rest of the road to Gumuljina is clear of Turkish troops, and are anxious for the Porte to specify the "strategical points" west of the Maritza which it proposes to retain. They are prepared to acquiesce for the present in Turkish retention of points on or not far beyond the railway.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[39417] No. 485.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Reilly.

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, August 28, 1913.*

TURKISH Government complain of massacres of Mussulmans by Bulgarians at Gumuljina, Kirjali, and Ferejik, and demand that Powers shall either stop these outrages or give Turkish Government mandate to do so.

We have received from Turkish Government assurances, of which we have taken formal note, respecting withdrawal of Turkish troops east of Maritza, and we have impressed on Turkish Government absolute necessity of strict adherence to these undertakings in future.

You should bring Turkish complaints to notice of Bulgarian Government, and say that, as these assurances have been given by Turkey, and as Bulgaria is now occupying districts in question, we expect them to make every endeavour to stop action of komitajis in Western Thrace and to abstain from giving provocation to Turkey by sending immediate orders to treat all inhabitants with justice and humanity.

(Repeated to Paris, No. 316, Berlin, No. 516, Vienna, No. 253, Rome, No. 246, and St. Petersburgh, No. 632, with following addition: "Inform Government to which you are accredited, and suggest that they should send similar instructions to their representative at Sophia.")

(Repeated to Constantinople, No. 434, for information.)

[39913] No. 486.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 217.)
Sir, *Posillipo, August 22, 1913.*

IN the absence from the capital of all the responsible hierarchy of the Foreign Department, during the Secretary General, it is only possible to gather an impression as to the tendency of official opinion from a study of those organs which are generally utilised for the direction of public opinion. As regards, then, what seems for the moment the most urgent and difficult issue before the Powers—the Turkish occupation of Adrianople and advance beyond the Maritza—the attitude of the semi-official press seems rather deprecatory of any action, and disposed to attenuate, as far as possible, the gravity of the earlier reports.

The "Popolo Romano," referring to your recent speech in the House of Commons and to the passage in which Turkey was reminded that measures of coercion were not necessarily excluded because Europe desired peace, points out what and how many difficulties stand in the way of a practical application of coercive measures, whence inevitably a feeling of scepticism is growing as to how the new problem of Adrianople can be resolved. The fears of a Turkish advance beyond the Maritza, the "Popolo" believes, will be found to be exaggerated in view of the declarations of the Porte, and the intention of occupying Demotika has been officially repudiated.

Yesterday also the "Tribuna" gave the hospitality of its columns and the place of honour to a long signed article the burden of which was to prove that, in the one grave Balkan issue still remaining for settlement, assuming revision of the treaty to be no longer a burning one, namely, the future of Adrianople, Italy is the only one of the Great Powers which, having made no pronouncement, still preserves entire liberty of action. This is quite appreciated in Turkey, where just now there is a strong reaction in favour of Italy. Her benevolence over the question of Adrianople would not fail to reap its recompense, and great material advantages are available to those who know how to take advantage of them. Public opinion should not lose sight of this consideration or forget the meaning of "Realpolitik."

The editorial comment is that the writer of this signed article is expressing a personal view. His point of view may be mistaken, but it merits being taken into discussion. The standpoint of the paper meanwhile remains as has always been, in the Balkan question one must not be Italian, but stand with the other Powers and be European.

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[39914] No. 487.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 218.)
Sir, *Posillipo, August 23, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that it is announced that two members of the Provisional Government in Albania—Mufid Bey, who deals with Foreign Affairs, and Poga Bey, who is responsible for Justice—proceeded yesterday to Valona, where they had a long interview with the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
RENNELL RODD.

[39823] No. 488.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Salonica, August 23, 1913.*

WITH reference to the third paragraph of my despatch No. 23 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report to you the following supplementary details concerning the events at Xanthi, which have been furnished to me by the directors of the Commercial Company.

On the morning of the 12th instant the representatives of the principal foreign establishments in Xanthi, including the Regie, the Banque de Salonique, the American Tobacco Company, the Export Leaf Tobacco Company and various others, called on the Greek Commander-in-Chief for the purpose of enquiring what measures he proposed to adopt in view of the enormous loss of wood by the Greek and Mussulman inhabitants of the town at the public meeting held on the 10th August to the effect that if it were to be decided to hand the place over to the Bulgars they would emigrate en masse, after first setting fire to their houses—a proceeding which could not fail to involve in the general ruin the very important material interests of which they themselves were the representatives in Xanthi.

The commander replied that he was aware of the resolution to which they referred. The mufti, in fact, had called on him personally and informed him that the Mussulman inhabitants were fully decided to abandon and set fire to their dwellings on the approach of the Bulgars. He was, however, disposed to believe that their decision, arrived at in a moment of excitement following the first intimation that the place was destined to fall again into the power of the Bulgarians, would not really be put into execution. He hoped that calmer and more reasonable feelings would prevail when the population recovered from the first impression of despair. He thought that if any danger of incendiarism existed, it would be more likely to occur after the entry of the Bulgarians, who might set fire to stores in order to remove evidence of pillage. He promised to use every effort to prevent incendiarism as long as he remained in the place, but having only thirty-two men under his orders the task was obviously a difficult one.

One of his visitors having remarked that the Greek Government would be responsible for any loss incurred by foreign interests, the commandant said that he was aware of that, and would take their interests into due consideration.

On leaving him the representatives of the foreign establishments drew up a *procès-verbal*, in which they recorded their opinion:

1. That the commandant's statements were somewhat evasive and did not exclude the danger of the destruction of the town by fire; and
2. That the military authorities had done nothing to dissuade the population from carrying out its expressed intention of destroying it.

On the 17th instant the military Governor of Xanthi invited the foreign subjects to meet him again, and communicated to them a telegram which he had received from the King, and which was to the following effect:—

"The American Legation having complained that the lives and property of its citizens at Serres, Drama, Cavalla, and Xanthi are in danger, I enjoin on you to watch

over the public tranquillity and lend your aid to the population, and particularly to the foreign subjects, so that neither their persons nor their property may suffer detriment."

He asked them if they had any complaint to make against the military authorities, saying that if they fancied their lives or property were in danger, he was ready to furnish a military guard for their residences as well as for their warehouses. To this they replied that they had no complaint to make against the Hellenic authorities, but had merely taken exception to the decision adopted by the population on the 10th August to set fire to their houses on the evacuation of the town. They considered it useless to place guards over their residences at present, but were of opinion that measures should be taken in that sense at the moment of evacuation.

The Governor requested them to put their reply into writing in order that he might communicate it to the King, and they accordingly drew up the letter of which a copy will be found in Enclosure No. 2.

I am informed by His Majesty's Minister at Athens that the Hellenic Government has at the eleventh hour proposed to that of Sophia that the evacuation of Xanthi and other places by the Greek forces should be retarded until a properly constituted Bulgarian authority is forthcoming to replace them. There appears, however, to be no certainty that this will be done, and the events at Melnik, reported in my immediately preceding despatch of the 21st instant, show that the danger anticipated by the foreign companies is by no means imaginary. The latter, whose pecuniary stake in Xanthi probably exceeds 500,000*l.*, are consequently extremely anxious. They have represented to us that the best guarantee for the safety of their property would be the presence of a European consular official, and as none of my colleagues are at present in a position to delegate such an official, I have ventured to suggest to you that I might be authorised to instruct Mr. Vice-Consul Morgan to proceed to Xanthi and remain there until the place has been duly taken over by the Bulgarian authorities.

I heard last night that the Bulgars have already entered Gumuldjina, and imagine, therefore, that it will not be long before they arrive at Xanthi.

I have, &c.
HARRY H. LAMB.

Enclosure 1 in No. 488.

Report of Interview with the Military Governor of Xanthi.

CE jourd'hui, 30 juillet (12 août), au matin, les soussignés se sont rendus auprès de M. le commandant militaire de la place, M. Joannidi, et au nom des sociétés étrangères qu'ils représentent, respectivement, Régie ottomane des Tabacs, Banque de Salonique, Mr. Alston, agent of the American Tobacco Company et the Lorillard Company, the Commercial Company of Salonica (Limited), the Export Leaf Tobacco Company, lui ont demandé quelles sont les mesures qu'il a prises ou compte prendre à l'égard de la résolution adoptée unanimement au cours du meeting populaire du 28 juillet (10 août) par les habitants indigènes grecs et musulmans de Xanthi ; qu'en cas de restitution de cette ville à la Bulgarie, ils sont décidés à émigrer en masse après avoir brûlé toutes leurs maisons.

Une pareille tentative d'incendie étant de nature à provoquer la destruction de toute la ville, les soussignés ont attiré à cet effet l'attention de M. le commandant sur les préjudices énormes qu'auraient à subir de ce chef leurs sociétés, qui possèdent à Xanthi des biens meubles et immeubles d'une valeur considérable.

M. le commandant a répondu en substance ce qui suit :—

" La population grecque et musulmane a, en effet, déclaré au cours de ce meeting qu'elle compte incendier ses maisons si les Bulgares doivent réoccuper cette ville, et même le mufti est venu me signaler l'intention de la population musulmane de quitter la ville après avoir brûlé ses maisons. Je ne crois pas, cependant, qu'elle se décide à mettre à exécution un pareil projet, conçu, je suppose, dans un moment de surexcitation causée par la nouvelle de l'accord intervenu entre les belligérants et qui laisse Xanthi à la Bulgarie. Les habitants de Xanthi auraient peut-être été capables de brûler la ville si les Bulgares devaient venir en prendre possession d'un moment à l'autre, mais il est certain que la question de la remise de la place demandera du

temps. L'exaltation qui règne en ce moment m'empêche de prendre immédiatement les mesures pour prévenir des accidents, mais j'espère que cet état d'esprit fera place à des sentiments plus calmes dont l'effet dissuadera la population de réaliser son dessein actuel. Je crains plutôt que les Bulgares eux-mêmes, en venant à Xanthi et en trouvant la ville vide, ne mettent le feu dans des immeubles pour cacher des vols. Je ferai mon possible pour prévenir des tentatives d'incendie simultanées, mais, en raison des forces insignifiantes dont je dispose (trente-deux hommes), la garde nocturne n'est confiée qu'à quatre patrouilles, de quatre hommes chacune ; aussi ne serait-il pas étonnant de voir quelqu'un mettre le feu à sa maison sans que l'autorité parvienne à l'en empêcher. Cependant, j'ai déjà demandé un renfort militaire, et au cas où l'état de surexcitation de la population se maintiendrait dans la suite et ferait craindre le danger d'un sinistre général de la ville, je tâcherai de prendre des mesures pour l'éviter."

Sur la remarque des soussignés que le Gouvernement hellénique serait responsable des dommages pouvant survenir aux étrangers, M. le commandant a répondu qu'il le savait et qu'il prendrait leurs intérêts en considération.

Les soussignés, en prenant acte des déclarations de M. de commandant, constatent :—

1. Que celles-ci revêtent un caractère assez évasif et n'écartent nullement la possibilité des risques d'incendie de la ville de Xanthi ;

2. Que l'autorité militaire locale n'a rien fait jusqu'ici pour détourner la population de ces projets de destruction auxquels celle-ci ne semble pas devoir renoncer d'elle-même.

En foi de quoi le présent procès-verbal a été dressé en cinq exemplaires pour servir aux qui de droit.

Fait à Xanthi, le 30 juillet (12 août), 1913.

Enclosure 2 in No. 488.

Note communicated to the Military Governor of Xanthi by Foreign Representatives.

M. le Gouverneur militaire, *Xanthi, le* 14 (27) *août*, 1913.

NOUS soussignés, sujets étrangers, avons l'honneur de vous déclarer que tout le temps où notre ville est occupée par l'armée hellénique nous nous considérons à l'abri de tout danger pour notre vie et nos biens. Seulement nous vous prions de prendre en sérieuse considération le fait que la population ayant décidé au meeting du 28 juillet (10 août) d'émigrer en masse après avoir brûlé ses maisons, il est à craindre qu'à ce moment nos biens meubles et immeubles ne subissent de dommages. Nous aimons à espérer qu'au moment voulu vous voudriez prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour la sauvegarde de nos biens et de nos habitations. Nous ne doutons pas du reste de vos bonnes intentions à notre égard, et nous vous prions de présenter humblement à Sa Majesté nos chaleureux remercîments pour l'intérêt qu'elle daigne témoigner à nos personnes et à nos intérêts matériels.

Veuillez, &c.

[39922] No. 489.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 443.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 29, 1913.

VICE-CONSUL at Dedeagatch, now in Constantinople, informs me that exodus of Greek inhabitants has been brought about for obvious political motives by Greek Bishop. He denies any excesses were committed by Bulgarian regular troops, tho by no means numerous cases of rape having been committed by men of railway corps, which is naturally more difficult to control.

(Sent to Athens.)

[39934] No. 490.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, August 29, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 178 of 28th August to Sophia.

Substance communicated to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Latter informed me that on receipt of Turkish complaint he had sent instructions to German representative at Sophia similar to all intents and purposes to those sent by you.

His Excellency also told me that German representative at Sophia had telegraphed his impression that Bulgarian Government were beginning to give up hope of retaining Adrianople, but were prevented by fear of public opinion from entering into any direct negotiations with Turks. Reason, however, given by Bulgarian Government to German representative for abstaining from that course was that they were afraid by approaching Turks they would lose their excellent diplomatic position based on Treaty of London.

[39878] No. 491.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 162.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, August 29, 1913.*

SALONICA telegram No. 87 of 28th August.

Russian Minister has obtained commutation of death sentence on the eighteen Bulgarians.

(Sent to Salonica.)

[39890] No. 492.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 29, 1913.*

I AM informed on the best authority that Servian Government is offering Montenegro line including Plevlie, Ipek, and Djakova. It is expected that negotiations proceeding here will be shortly concluded.

(Repeated to Cettinjé.)

[40525] No. 493.

Tewfik Pasha to Sir L. Mallet.—(Received August 30.)

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres, le 29 août, 1913.

Mon cher Ambassadeur,

JE n'ai pas manqué de télégraphier aussitôt à Constantinople pour avoir confirmation ou démenti au sujet de la nouvelle mise en circulation de l'occupation de Gumuldjina et de Kirdjali par les troupes ottomanes. Je viens à l'instant de recevoir un télégramme de son Altesse le Grand Vizir, qui déclare que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a nullement étendu et n'étendra pas son occupation au delà de la Maritza et de quelques points stratégiques occupés dès le début et qui sont strntégiquement indispensables pour la défense d'Andrinople. Toute information contraire et les allégations sur l'occupation de Gumuldjina et de Kirdjali ne sont donc que des inventions inspirées de certaines sources intéressées à indisposer les Grandes Puissances envers la Turquie. Le Grand Vizir déclare, en terminant, que le Gouvernement Impérial s'en tient toujours à sa première déclaration à cet égard.

Je suis heureux, mon cher Ambassadeur, de vous donner cette nouvelle, qui met fin à ces racontars d'occupations journalières de nouvelles localités par les troupes ottomanes.

Votre bien dévoué,
TEVFIK.

[40025] No. 494.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 30.)

War Office, August 29, 1913.

Sir,

I AM commanded by the Army Council to request you to inform me whether Sir Edward Grey can now acquaint the Council when he considers it will be possible for the detachment now at Scutari to return to Malta. I am to point out that the infantry garrison at Malta has now been thus reduced for over two and a-half months, and that the absence of such a number in time of emergency might be a serious matter.

I am, &c.
R. W. BRADE.

[39972] No. 495.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 445.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 29, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 436 of 27th August.

"Black Prince" has received orders to leave and will sail to-morrow evening.

[39941] No. 496.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 356.)
(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Sophia, August 29, 1913.*

EVACUATION of Bulgaria by Roumanians expected to be completed to-day.

[40008] No. 497.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 358.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, August 29, 1913.*

CONSTANTINOPLE telegram No. 434 of 26th August.

Bulgarian Government have hitherto denied pourparlers at Constantinople, but to-day Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that they have decided to act on advice given to M. Natchevitch by the Russian Ambassador on 27th August to enter into direct negotiations with the Ottoman Government. M. Toshef, late Minister at Belgrade, General Savof, and M. Kalchef (see Sophia telegram No. 3 of 1st January) have been selected as delegates, and will proceed to Constantinople as soon as possible. Minister for Foreign Affairs hopes that negotiations may be completed in a week, and trusts that Great Britain and other Great Powers will use their good offices to obtain reasonable terms for Bulgaria.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[40039] No. 498.

Mr. O'Reilly to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 359.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 29, 1913.*

I SPOKE to the Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon in the sense of your telegram No. 178 of 28th August, although the Bulgarian Government are already very much alive to the importance of giving the Ottoman Government no occasion against them, while the Turks seem correspondingly anxious (see Constantinople telegram No. 406 of 14th August) to seek such occasion.

His Excellency denied any Bulgarian excesses, and said that places named were not now in Bulgarian occupation, while as to the future his request for the presence of military attachés when Thrace should be reoccupied proved the good intentions of the Bulgarian Government. He said that the Turks on their part had massacred the Bulgarian prisoners of war captured at Kuchukavak and have committed every kind of atrocity throughout their advance. Respecting many of these I have received independent confirmation.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

[39973] No. 499.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 29, 1913.*

YOUR despatch No. 521 of 21st August.

Minister for Foreign Affairs concurs, and arrangements are being made for withdrawal of French ship from Albanian coast.

M. Krajewsky, the French delegate on the International Control Commission, is due at Scutari to-day.

[39974] No. 500.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Paris, August 29, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 310 of yesterday.

French representatives at Constantinople and Sophia have analogous instructions. French Government are pointing out to the Great Powers importance of obtaining from Turkey observance of her engagements in order that Bulgarian troops may have no difficulty in occupying the territories assigned to Bulgaria, and, on the other hand, a strict performance by the Bulgarian Government of the obligation that all inhabitants shall be treated with justice and humanity.

[40105] No. 501.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 317.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, August 30, 1913.*

YOUR despatch No. 300 of 22nd August.

Am I right in understanding that in proposed declaration to be made to the Greek Government by Financial Commission no allusion is to be made to postponement (see third paragraph of your despatch No. 249 of 14th July) for two or three years of additional payments by Greek Government? French Government do not seem to contemplate any such postponement (see enclosure in Paris despatch No. 416 of 6th August).

[39980] No. 502.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, August 30, 1913.*

ON 24th August Turkish troops were in the town mentioned in your telegram of 27th August and the Bulgarians had left.

Bulgarians have also retired from Xanthi.

[40130] No. 503.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.**

(No. 317.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 30, 1913.*

REPORTS from British vice-admiral at Scutari show that task of Commission of admirals becomes increasingly difficult.

In view of this and of objection raised by some Powers to extension of Commission's jurisdiction it is imperative that International Commission of Control should enter on its duties as soon as possible.

Inform Government to which you are accredited, and express earnest hope that their representative may be instructed to proceed to Scutari without undue delay.

[40525] No. 504.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Reilly.

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 30, 1913.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 359 of 29th August.

I have received through the Turkish Ambassador a message from the Grand Vizier declaring that the Turkish Government have not extended, and will not extend, the occupation of Thrace beyond the Maritza and certain strategic points indispensable for defence of Adrianople.

All information respecting the occupation of Kirjali and Gumuljina is stated to be entirely without foundation.

(Repeated to Paris, No. 318; St. Petersburgh, No. 638; Berlin, No. 318; Constantinople, No. 443; Vienna, No. 255; and Rome, No. 250.)

[40525] No. 505.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.†

(No. 319.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 30, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 179 of 30th August to Sophia: Turkish advance.

Inform Government to which you are accredited.

[40110] No. 506.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *Posillipo, August 31, 1913.*

BULGARIAN Minister informed Italian Foreign Office yesterday morning that his Government had initiated negotiations with the Porte.

[40111] No. 507.

Sir R. Rodd to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Posillipo, August 31, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 178 of 28th August to Sophia: Turkish advance in Thrace.

Similar communication made by Turkish Ambassador here to Italian Foreign Office.

Italian Minister at Sophia has been instructed to act in the sense desired as soon as his colleagues receive similar instructions.

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* Also to Sir F. Cartwright (No. 254), Sir G. Buchanan (No. 637), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 249).

† Also to Sir G. Buchanan (No. 639), Sir E. Goschen (No. 319), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 256), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 251).

[40103] No. 508.

Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 447.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 31, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 178 of 28th August to Sophia.

From accounts given by vice-consul at Dedeagatch (my telegram No. 443 of 29th August) it is clear that no excesses were committed by Bulgarians at Feredjik. On the other hand, there is no doubt that Turkish bands, directed by Committee, have been operating in Kirjali and other districts to the north (my telegram No. 435 of 27th August), just as was done east of Maritza, in Rodosto hinterland.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[40123] No. 509.

Acting Consul-General Morgan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, August 31, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 88 of 30th August.

Turkish troops have withdrawn from Gumuljina, but hold positions round the town, which is governed by inhabitants.

According to news from Cavalla, Bulgarian troops are still in Xanthi, but Turkish troops are near the town. Foreigners there are well.

[40102] No. 510.

Mr. C. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Bucharest, August 31, 1913.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that from to-morrow there will be no Roumanian troops left in Bulgaria.

(Sent to Sophia.)